

May 8, 2025



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Radisson SeaTac Hotel
King County
SeaTac, Washington**

Count	ByLaws Ref	Population	Executive Board Seat	Title	First Name	Last Name	County
12	< Quorum						
1	3.4a		President	Commissioner	Robert	Coffman	Lincoln
2	3.4a		1st Vice-President	Commissioner	Mark	Ozias	Clallam
3	3.4a		2nd Vice-President	Commissioner	Gunner	Fulmer	Walla Walla
4	3.4b, 3.17.2		IP-President	Commissioner	Lisa	Janicki	Skagit
			Board Seat	Title	First Name	Last Name	County
	3.4f	2,347,800	King County Executive		INACTIVE MEMBERS		
	3.4e 1	2,347,800	King County Council		INACTIVE MEMBERS		
5		946,300	Pierce (<i>Jaime Smith</i>)	Executive	Ryan	Mello	Pierce
6	3.4e 2	946,300	Pierce	Councilmember	Jani	Hitchen	Pierce
7		859,800	Snohomish (<i>L.Harper / A.Vaughn</i>)	Executive	Dave	Somers	Snohomish
8	3.4e 3	859,800	Snohomish	Councilmember	Megan	Dunn	Snohomish
9	3.4e 4	554,600	Spokane	Commissioner	Mary	Kuney	Spokane
10	3.4e 5	527,400	Clark	Councilor	Matt	Little	Clark
11	3.4e 6	303,400	Thurston	Commissioner	Tye	Menser	Thurston
12	3.4e 7	283,200	Kitsap	Commissioner	Katie	Walters	Kitsap
13	3.4e 8	261,200	Yakima	Commissioner	Amanda	McKinney	Yakima
14	3.4e 9	235,800	Whatcom	Executive	Satpal	Sidhu	Whatcom
15	3.4e 10	215,500	Benton	Commissioner	Will	McKay	Benton
16	3.4d 1		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Mark	Burrows	Stevens
17	3.4d 2		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Dan	Sutton	Douglas
18	3.4d 3		Eastern Region	Commissioner	LaDon	Linde	Yakima
19	3.4d 4		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Art	Swannack	Whitman
20	3.4c 1		Western Region	Councilmember	Jane	Fuller	San Juan
21	3.4c 2		Western Region	Commissioner	Sean	Swope	Lewis
22	3.4c 3		Western Region	Commissioner	Carolina	Mejia	Thurston
23	3.4c 4		Western Region	Commissioner	Sharon	Trask	Mason
			Board Alternate Seat	Title	First Name	Last Name	County
	3.4f	2,347,800	King County Executive	#N/A	INACTIVE MEMBERS		
	3.4e 1	2,347,800	King County Council	#N/A	INACTIVE MEMBERS		
1	3.4e 2	946,300	Pierce	Councilmember	Robyn	Denson	Pierce
2	3.4e 3	859,800	Snohomish	Councilmember	Jared	Mead	Snohomish
3	3.4e 4	554,600	Spokane	Commissioner	Al	French	Spokane
4	3.4e 5	527,400	Clark	Councilor	Glen	Yung	Clark
5	3.4e 6	303,400	Thurston	Commissioner	Vacant		Thurston
6	3.4e 7	283,200	Kitsap	Commissioner	Christine	Rolfes	Kitsap
7	3.4e 8	261,200	Yakima	Commissioner	Vacant		Yakima
8	3.4e 9	235,800	Whatcom	Councilmember	Kaylee	Galloway	Whatcom
9	3.4e 10	215,500	Benton	Commissioner	Michael	Alvarez	Benton
10	3.4d 1		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Chris	Seubert	Asotin
11	3.4d 2		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Scott	Hutsell	Lincoln
12	3.4c 1		Western Region	Commissioner	Vicki	Raines	Grays Harbor
13	3.4c 2		Western Region	Commissioner	Janet	St. Clair	Island
Affiliate Presidents			Board Affiliates (Non-voting Mbrs)		First Name	Last Name	County / City
			ACHS		Malissa	Adame	Pierce
			WACCC		Jennifer	Roll	Island
			WACSWM	Co-Chair	Becci	Piepel	Douglas
			WACSWM	Co-Chair	Margo	Gillaspy	Skagit
			WCAA		Matt	Rasmusson	Benton
			WSACE		Doug	McCormick	Snohomish
			WSACRPD		Michelle	Mercer	Benton
			WSALPHO		Carla	Prock	Benton-Franklin
			WSEMA		Alysha	Kaplan	King
			WSUEXT		Anthony	Gromko	Snohomish



**Regular Meeting of the WSAC Board of Directors
King County, Washington
Thursday, May 8, 2025, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Lodging/Meeting Location

Radisson SeaTac Hotel
18118 International Blvd.
SeaTac, Washington 98188

Zoom Meeting

<https://wsac-org.zoom.us/j/82461818106?pwd=RGdKRVOF84zVJVup3tpf0rJxbcE6Vg.1>

Meeting ID: 824 6181 8106

Passcode: 953444

Dinner will be available starting at 4:45 p.m. This is a working dinner; please plan on being seated by 5:00 p.m.

TIME*	Encl.	PRESENTER(s)	AGENDA	TYPE
5:00 p.m.		President Coffman	CALL TO ORDER and Introductions: Establish a quorum	
5:10 p.m.		Derek Young	1. Meeting and Agenda Review	
5:15 p.m.	√	President Coffman	2. APPROVE Agenda	Action
	√	President Coffman	3. APPROVE MINUTES: February 5, 2025	Action
		President Coffman	4. President's Report	Report
			5. Public Comment Limited to Items on Agenda	
SOLUTIONS CENTER				
5:30 p.m.		Derek Young Tessa Sullivan John Mason	6. Amazon Business Prime Program Overview	Report
LEGAL AFFAIRS				
6:00 p.m.		Derek Young	7. Potential or Pending Litigation - Litigation Update	Report
	√	Derek Young	8. Amicus Update and Consideration of Amicus Brief Request Resolution	Report

TIME*	Encl.	PRESENTER(s)	AGENDA	TYPE
WSAC BUSINESS				
6:15 p.m.	√ (materials to be sent out prior to discussion)	President Coffman Executive Search Committee Laura Hitchcock, Jan Glick – Glick Davis & Associates	EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN APPLICANT FOR EMPLOYMENT AS ALLOWED BY RCW 42.30.110 (g) 9. Recommendation of Executive Director	Discussion
6:40 p.m.		Executive Director Recommended Candidate	10. Presentation to the Board a. Candidate Presentation b. Candidate Q&A	Presentation
7:15 p.m.	√	President Coffman Glick Davis	11. Board Discussion Action: Consider/Ratify the WSAC Search Committee's recommendation for the WSAC Executive Director's appointment. Resolution: #2025-09	Discussion/ Action
7:30 p.m.			BREAK	
7:35 p.m.	√	Jessica Strozewski	12. Statewide Boards and Commissions Actions: Consider Adopting Nominations and Appointments Resolutions: #2025-10~2025-13	Action
8:10 p.m.	√	Bridget Lockling	13. 2024 Financial Report	Report
8:20 p.m.		Paul Jewell	Legislative session update (if time allows)	Report
WRITTEN STAFF REPORTS				
	√	Derek Young	14. Interim Executive Director	Report
	√	Bridget Lockling	15. Business and Operations	Report
	√	Paul Jewell	16. Policy and Legislative	Report
OTHER BUSINESS				
8:35 p.m.		Members present	17. NACo Reports	Report
		President Coffman	18. WSAC Board of Directors reports from activities on Statewide Boards and Commissions <i>Presentation by WSAC Board Members on Current Issues relating to Statewide Boards and Commissions they serve/represent WSAC on</i>	Report
		President Coffman	19. Other Business	
9:00 p.m.		President Coffman	ADJOURN	

*Times are approximate only

Tentative Dates: Next Regular Scheduled WSAC Board of Directors Meetings

September 18, 2025 – Thursday – Board Meeting

Hotel Windrow – Ellensburg, WA – Kittitas County

November 18, 2025 – Tuesday – Board Meeting

The Davenport Grand – Spokane, WA – Spokane County

Washington State Association of Counties
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 5, 2025

Opening

The Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) met on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, starting at noon at the Washington Counties Building, Thurston County, Olympia, Washington, and via Zoom. According to Association Bylaws, all directors and alternates were notified of the meeting appropriately.

Board members present: President Rob Coffman, 1st Vice President Mark Ozias, 2nd Vice President Gunner Fulmer, Mark Burrows, Megan Dunn, Al French, Jane Fuller, Kaylee Galloway, Jani Hitchen, Scott Hutsell, Mary Kuney, LaDon Linde, Will McKay, Amanda McKinney, Carolina Mejia, Tye Menser, Vickie Raines, Janet St. Clair, Satpal Sidhu, Jaime Smith (Pierce County Executive) Art Swannack, Sean Swope, Sharon Trask, Annika Vaughn (Snohomish County Executive) and Katie Walters. A quorum was present.

Staff and others present: Derek Young, Bridget Lockling, Ed Bowen (Clallam Citizen), Travis Dutton, Lynn Fiorillo-Lowe, Laura Hitchcock, Paul Jewell, West McKee (Connect/Presenter) Kari McVeigh, Colleen Meiners, Mitch Netzer, Brianne Steere, Curtis Steinhauer, Jessica Strozewski, Axel Swanson and Michael White

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. President Coffman determined a quorum was present to conduct business. It was moved by Commissioner Art Swannack, seconded by Commissioner Carolina Mejia to approve the agenda as proposed. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The original motion was made by Councilmember Jane Fuller and seconded by Commissioner LaDon Linde to approve the minutes of November 19, 2024, WSAC Board of Directors Regular Meeting as drafted. The motion passed. *A motion was made by Commissioner Art Swannack to re-ratify the minutes of the November 19, 2024, meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Scott Hutsell. The motion carried unanimously.*

President Coffman administered the oath of office to Walla Walla County Commissioner Gunner Fulmer, who was sworn in as WSAC's new 2nd Vice President. Congratulations to Commissioner Fulmer!

President's Report: President Coffman introduced Laura Hitchcock, Glick Davis & Associates, who provided an overview of where the association is in the process for the recruitment of WSAC's Executive Director position.

WSAC Business Actions

An opportunity for public comment was provided—no public comments.

Derek Young provided updates on the pending litigation and the amicus briefs.

WSAC Conflict of Interest Policy Review: Bridget Lockling presented the background and content on WSAC's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Resolution #2025-01: A motion was made and seconded by Commissioner Art Swannack to approve **Resolution #2025-01**, which certifies that the WSAC Board of Directors is entitled to vote in accordance with the Association Bylaws and Alternate Directors Acting on behalf of a Director have a duty to promptly disclose any direct or indirect financial or other material interest that he or she has or expects to have in any proposed or existing arrangement with WSAC; and WSAC has a duty to inform Directors and Alternates that the Conflict of Interest Policy exists. The motion passed.

Audit, Investment and Finance Committee Appointments: Bridget Lockling presented the members with the new Appointments for the Audit, Investment and Finance Committee recommended by President Coffman.

Resolution #2025-02: A motion was made by Commissioner Art Swannack and seconded by Commissioner LaDon Linde to approve **Resolution #2025-02**, which supports the nominations of Clallam County Commissioner Randy Johnson and Yakima County Commissioner Amanda McKinney to the Audit, Investment and Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

WSAC Solutions Lab: Derek Young introduced the initial stages of the WSAC Solutions Lab. West McKee, Connect provided an overview of what their program is. In which Connect creates a program to provide members with outcomes they can't get from anywhere else while creating new due revenues for the long term. The Role of Connect would be another opportunity to increase revenue for the organization.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jani Hitchen, seconded by Commissioner LaDon Linde which directed Derek to send out additional information to the members on the role of Connect, before signing an agreement with them. The outcome of the survey would be presented to the WSAC Executive Board for them to review and decide. If it were not a favorable outcome, it would be presented again to the WSAC Board for another discussion. Motion carried.

Statewide Boards and Commissions: Jessica Strozewski reported on the nominations received for open county or local government-represented statewide boards and commissions positions.

Resolution #2025-03: A vacancy exists on the Criminal Justice Treatment Account Panel. Rachel Grant, Thurston County Commissioner, Sonya Miles, Kitsap County Assistant Director, Department of Human Services, and Sean Swope, Lewis County Commissioner. A motion was made and seconded to approve.

Resolution #2025-03 and transmit Commissioner Rachel Grant's name to the Criminal Justice Treatment Account Panel. Motion carried. Lewis County Commissioner Sean Swope was unanimously elected as an alternate on the panel.

Resolution #2025-04: A vacancy on the NACo Western Interstate Region Board with Sean Swope, Lewis County Commissioner is seeking the nomination. A motion was made by Commissioner Art Swannack and seconded by Commissioner Amanda McKinney to approve **Resolution #2025-04** and transmit the nominee's name to the NACo Western Interstate Region Board. Motion carried.

Resolution #2025-05: Yakima County Commissioner LaDon Linde made a motion, seconded by Thurston County Commissioner Carolyn Mejia to approve **Resolution #2025-05** and nominate Thurston County Commissioner Rachel Grant, to the Washington 911 Advisory Committee. Motion passed.

Resolution #2025-06: Mason County Commissioner Sharon Trask made a motion, seconded by Whitman County Commissioner Art Swannack to approve **Resolution #2025-06** and transmit the names of Councilmember Kari McVeigh, San Juan County and Commissioner Carolyn Mejia, Thurston County, to the Governor's Office for the vacancy on the Affordable Housing Advisory. Motion carried.

Resolution #2025-07: Yakima County Commissioner LaDon Linde made a motion, seconded by Mason County Commissioner Sharon Trask to approve **Resolution #2025-07** and transmit the names of Lewis County Commissioner Scott Brummer, Jefferson County Commissioner Heidi Eisenhower and Pacific County Commissioner Lisa Olsen Governor's Office for the vacancy on the Forest Practices Board. The motion passed.

Encumbered Lands Proviso: Paul Jewell presented to the WSAC Board action to consider adopting the Encumbered Lands Proviso Working Group Recommendations (ELP) report dated December 2024 and approve all previously unconsidered policy proposals. A motion was made by Commissioner Art Swannack, seconded by Commissioner LaDon Linde to approve **Resolution #2025-08**. The motion carried to approve

Resolution #2025-08.

Other openings brought forward at the February Board meeting:

Airport System Plan Project Advisory Committee: Kitsap County Commissioners Oran Root & Katie Walters **(TBD)**

County Design Standards Committee: Brian Meier, Thurston County Engineer

Forensic Investigations Council: Wayne Fornier, Thurston County Commissioner & Mark Burrows, Stevens County Commissioner

Voluntary Stewardship Program Statewide Advisory Committee: LaDon Linde, Yakima County Commissioner

Winter Recreation Advisory Committee: Todd Menser, Thurston County Commissioner

Reports

Member Reports & Staff Reports: Member and staff reports are available in the board packet.

Closing

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on **Thursday, May 8, 2025.**

Adjourn: There being no further business, President Rob Coffman adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC Second Vice President

AUTHORIZED AND ACTIVE LITIGATION**DCYF Intake Suspension – Pierce County et al. v. Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families – King Co. no. 24-2-17331-5**

On July 5, 2024, without prior notice, DCYF stated its intention to stop complying with its statutory obligation to admit juvenile offenders into Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) facilities “effective [that day].” As a result, youth have been forced to remain indefinitely in county detention facilities that vary in their capacity levels and program capabilities from county to county and often lack the treatment and enrichment programs the Juvenile Justice Act requires. The result risks the safety of youth in the justice system and transfers the current overcrowding and safety issues experienced in JR facilities directly to the counties. While DCYF has admitted that it acted “too abruptly” and “did not adequately consider the entire juvenile justice system as a whole,” it has nonetheless continued to violate its clear statutory obligation. Because DCYF’s conduct will result in irreparable harm to the affected youth and the counties, WSAC and co-plaintiff counties filed a motion for preliminary injunction in King County Superior Court on July 31, 2024, asking the court to require DCYF to comply with its statutory obligations. While there are many reverberating costs and complications related to this act, the main legal arguments included are:

- DCYF has a duty to comply with its statutory and legal obligations.
- Courts do not have the discretion to directly commit juvenile offenders to county facilities.
- The Juvenile Justice Act specifically obligates only DCYF to provide required rehabilitative facilities to juvenile offenders, and DCYF is denying them necessary rehabilitation, and public safety is negatively impacted by this suspension.

The preliminary injunction hearing was scheduled for August 14, 2024, in front of King County Superior Court Judge Whedbee. Once the suit was filed, the State reached out and asked if WSAC and its co-plaintiff counties would be willing to strike the preliminary injunction and come to an agreement on juvenile admissions to JR. On August 8, 2024, an agreed order was filed in which DCYF agreed to initiate the admission of juvenile offenders to DCYF facilities on or by August 9, 2024, and to provide transportation for such offenders, to the extent possible, to these facilities within three business days. DCYF also agreed to provide advance notice of at least ten judicial days to WSAC and its co-plaintiff counties of any future restrictions on admissions.

Since then, WSAC staff have continued communicating with DCYF and the Governor’s Office to ensure continued compliance with the agreement.

The Attorney General’s Office reached out to seek a settlement, and we declined until further information is available regarding the investments needed to address the core problem.

Civil Conversion – Pierce County et al. v. DSHS et al., No 3:23-cv-5775

Following repeated violations of court orders by the State, a coalition of 28 counties (Coalition) and WSAC (represented by Pacifica Law Group) filed a lawsuit in Pierce County Superior Court against the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) on August 23, 2023, over DSHS’s decision to stop

providing initial evaluation and subsequent treatment for a rising number of patients in need of behavioral health support when exiting the criminal legal system.

The Coalition has also filed a motion for preliminary injunction to compel DSHS's immediate compliance with state law and court orders. The Coalition includes Asotin, Clallam, Cowlitz, Douglas, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima Counties. Six additional counties have now joined the Coalition, including Chelan, Clark, Columbia, Garfield, Stevens, and Okanogan Counties, representing over 7 million of the State's residents.

When a person with a severe mental health condition or cognitive disability has their charges dismissed because they cannot understand the charges, DSHS is ordered by the Court to evaluate that individual and, if necessary, provide effective behavioral health treatment. This system, called a civil conversion commitment, focuses on people with severe behavioral health conditions whom the crisis and outpatient behavioral health system have not adequately served.

Despite court orders and state laws requiring them, DSHS has asserted that it is no longer obligated to evaluate or treat patients whose criminal charges are dismissed, citing a federal judge's orders in a separate case. To date, the agency has repeatedly argued that it will not follow what appear to be precise statutory and court-ordered legal requirements, leaving hundreds of individuals across the State to lose their chance for mental health treatment that might break the cycle of re-offense.

Charges are dropped against individuals when they are determined incompetent to stand trial, and the State fails to provide restoration services or cannot restore their competency. The individuals are then released into the community without facing justice or receiving the treatment courts have ordered. When DSHS fails to provide restoration services, individuals are referred back to their home counties to designated crisis responders, placing the burden of care on counties despite a state law requiring the State to do so. These releases compound a harmful cycle where the State does not meet its responsibility of care and leaves individuals at risk of re-offending, repeating the legal process without any interruption for care and treatment.

In the *Trueblood* case, after failing to follow its legal obligations, DSHS was held in contempt, and the Federal Court imposed a \$100 million fine. DSHS now claims that its refusal to follow state law with conversion patients is the fault of the Federal Court. However, nothing in the Court's order interferes with DSHS's obligation or ability to provide evaluations and restorative services.

While the State invested heavily in behavioral health in the 2023 legislative session and purchased a former behavioral health hospital in Tukwila to address a capacity shortage, DSHS has refused to provide the care ordered by courts and required by state law.

The request for preliminary injunction filed on the 23rd asked the Court to immediately order DSHS to comply with its obligations under state law. It created a pathway for the Court to instantly determine the underlying legal issue and restore the civil conversion commitment process.

The Coalition's motion for preliminary injunction was scheduled to be heard in front of Judge Alicia Burton on September 8, 2023, in Pierce County Superior Court. However, the State filed a notice of removal that moved this case to the federal court, which, in turn, canceled the September 8th injunction hearing to sort out jurisdictional issues with the federal court. In response to the notice of removal, the Coalition and WSAC moved to remand the matter back to Pierce County Superior Court as we believed the State improperly removed the matter to federal Court. Removal to Federal Court is only permitted when the complaint is founded on a claim or right that arises under federal law. However, our complaint was based solely on the State's causes of action for declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, and mandamus based on DSHS's violation of duties under a state statute and court orders. DSHS argued that the complaint was subject to removal because its defense rested on its interpretation of the recent *Trueblood* contempt order. However, we believed the case was not subject to removal from state court because DSHS planned to raise a federal claim in defense of state law action. Thus, the federal court was not the appropriate venue.

Because of the impacts of DSHS's improper delay tactics on patient well-being and public safety, WSAC filed an emergency motion for remand or, in the alternative, a temporary restraining order pending the determination of the motion for remand. This was filed on August 31, 2023. The case was assigned to Judge Pechman (the *Trueblood* judge), who declined to address the motion for remand on an emergency basis and noted the motion on her regular schedule, set for September 22, 2023. The Court refused to consider the interim request for a temporary restraining order.

On September 26, 2023, US District Court Judge Pechman granted Counties an Emergency Motion to remand the case:

"to Pierce County Superior Court for resolution of the underlying dispute between the Counties and DSHS. The issues presented in the Counties' lawsuit have only tangential relation to the rights at issue in Trueblood. Without a federal claim or substantial federal question, the Court lacks jurisdiction to preside over this lawsuit. The discrete and unique state law issues concerning civil commitment evaluation and notice must instead be decided by the Pierce County Superior Court, the forum in which the Counties initially filed this lawsuit. For these reasons, the Court GRANTS Plaintiffs' Motion to Remand and REMANDS this action to Pierce County Superior Court."

On October 6, 2023, Pierce County Superior Court Judge Michael Schwartz granted the Counties' Motion for a Preliminary Injunction. Under the terms of the order, DSHS was immediately required to perform its statutory obligation under RCW 10.77.086 to evaluate all new conversion patients. These are patients for whom criminal charges were dismissed after they were found incompetent and non-restorable. The Court further enjoined DSHS from releasing existing conversion patients without providing statutorily sufficient notification. The Court indicated that it would have issued a Writ of Mandamus if injunctive relief was unavailable. DSHS immediately asked the court to stay the injunction for 90 days. The Court denied this request because the harm to patients and the community caused by DSHS's "dilatatory" actions was ongoing.

The preliminary injunction will stay in place until after a trial on the matter. Because there are no disputed facts, subsequent proceedings are really a formality.

In January 2024, the Coalition and the State were working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to settle the case that includes the following elements:

1. The receipt of patients by the State referred there by court order under RCW 10.77.086(7);
2. Advance notice by the State of the release of committed persons under RCW 71.05.425;
3. Assistance to the State by the Counties to limit or avoid overcrowding of state hospitals, regional treatment facilities, and other facilities and to improve the State's ability to meet its obligations under state law, federal law, and federal court orders;
4. The Counties' providing information and documents under RCW 10.77.075 to the State to improve the State's ability to proceed under RCW 10.77.086(7); and
5. Assistance is given to DSHS evaluators who seek good cause extensions from the court for time, under RCW 10.77.068(5), to conduct competency evaluations.

All counties signed the MOU by the deadline.

WSAC staff opposed legislation that violated the terms of the agreement and successfully amended the bill to achieve an acceptable outcome. We will continue to monitor and enforce the agreement as necessary.

Indigent Defense - Washington State Association of Counties et. al. v. State of Washington, No. 23-202911-24

In 2018, WSAC began to study the feasibility of potential legal action regarding the State's constitutional duty to provide trial court indigent defense funding.

- Pacifica Law Group researched and analyzed potential and likely claims – statutory and constitutional.
- WSAC filed an Amicus Brief on a case that asks if the State of Washington or the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) has an actionable duty to cure claimed systemic and significant deficiencies in a county's indigent defense services to juveniles charged with criminal offenses. (Davison v. State of Washington and Washington State Office of Public Defense, Supreme Court, No. 96766-1)X
- In 2017, the plaintiff, supported by the ACLU, sued the State, alleging that Grays Harbor County systemically failed to provide a constitutionally adequate indigent juvenile defense. Grays Harbor County was not named as a party to the suit. Davison asked Thurston County Superior Court to declare that the State and OPD must act when they become aware of a systemic failure by a county to provide a constitutionally adequate indigent juvenile defense.
 - The trial court ruled that the State must act if it knows of a county's systemic failure to provide constitutionally adequate indigent juvenile defense without regard to whether the County could remedy the problem more appropriately.
 - The State filed a motion for direct review to the Supreme Court on January 28, 2019, and the Court accepted the review.
 - The Grays Harbor Board of County Commissioners formally requested WSAC to submit an Amicus Curiae Brief.
 - The WSAC Executive Committee approved amicus involvement on April 7, 2019.
 - The Pacifica Law Group, on behalf of WSAC, submitted an Amicus Curiae Brief on September 27, 2019, that made the following points:
 - The State of Washington has an *affirmative constitutional duty* to ensure the adequacy of indigent defense; and
 - The Court should not rule on who (State or county) is responsible for funding indigent defense because it was improper before the Court.
 - On November 12, 2019, oral arguments were made before the Washington State Supreme Court.
 - The Supreme Court filed its ruling on 6/25/20 - <https://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/pdf/967661.pdf>.
 - The Washington State Supreme Court confirmed that the State must ultimately provide indigent defense services as required under the U.S. and Washington Constitutions. While the State has the discretion to delegate to local governments responsible for providing these services, *in so doing, the State must provide local governments with the authority and means necessary to furnish constitutionally adequate indigent defense*. The Court remanded the case to consider whether the systemic and structural deficiencies in the current state system, as alleged by the plaintiffs and described in WSAC's amicus brief, violate the State's constitutional duties.
 - The plaintiff sought Supreme Court reconsideration.
 - WSAC prepared an amicus brief to support reconsideration.
 - The Supreme Court asked the State to respond to the request for reconsideration (9/1/2020)
 - The Supreme Court denied reconsideration on 10/20/2020.
 - WSAC reviewed potential concurrent or subsequent legal actions.
- WSAC initiated work on data gathering associated with indigent defense and county expenditures, systems of delivery, county revenues and expenses, etc.
- WSAC staff reached out to secure contact points for each county regarding this potential litigation as necessary.
- WSAC staff established a data/information steering committee with county budget and policy staff.
- WSAC contractor established an indigent defense data set and dashboard for counsel to refer to.
- WSAC explored/identified potential co-plaintiffs as part of potential litigation, including individual counties.
- WSAC counsel worked on an indigent defense complaint.
- WSAC completed a political and environmental scan on filing complaints and timing.

- WSAC considered intervening in Davison v. State of Washington and Washington State Office of Public Defense Supreme Court No. 96766-1, on remand in Thurston County Superior Court should it proceed.
- WSAC Legal Committee and Legislative Steering Committee both recommended the following to the WSAC Board of Directors:
 - There are merits and reasonable grounds to support a legal challenge to require the State to fully fund trial court indigent defense services; and
 - The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee and the Board of Directors should consider recommending and authorizing a legal challenge requiring the State to fully fund trial court indigent defense services.
- On May 5, 2021, the WSAC Board of Directors authorized a legal challenge requiring the State to fully fund trial court indigent defense services.
- WSAC and Pacifica Law Group identified and met with potential co-plaintiffs (individual counties, groups, organizations, associations, and individuals).
- WSAC updated data and information.
- WSAC worked with a public defense expert to provide context for the lawsuit from a state and national perspective.
- WSAC identified potential "budget" coordinators to aid in the litigation. WSAC was in discussions with the potential contractor and in contact with Stellar Associates to provide support on budget analysis.
- In 2022, Kitsap County, Lincoln County, and Yakima County joined as co-plaintiffs.
- Pacifica Law Group worked with co-plaintiff counties on the final preparation for filing the complaint.
- WSAC prepared communication materials for the case to provide to both members and the media.
- A decision was made to file the complaint in Thurston County Superior Court.
- In late November 2022, Kitsap County informed WSAC it would no longer be a co-plaintiff in the case. WSAC staff discussed with the WSAC Executive Committee and counseled the need to postpone filing the complaint and take time to discuss and potentially locate another co-plaintiff county.
- WSAC staff discussed with several western Washington counties about joining as a potential co-plaintiff.
- In June 2023, Pacific County joined as a co-plaintiff in the case.
- On October 31, 2023, the State of Washington filed its response seeking to dismiss the Counties' lawsuit based on the argument that counties lack standing and cannot assert claims on behalf of indigent criminal defendants.

The Court set a schedule to hear the State's request to dismiss the case:

- 8/6/24 – Disclosure of Fact Witnesses
- 9/5/24 – Disclosure of Plaintiff's Expert Witnesses
- 10/5/24 – Disclosure of Defendant's Expert Witnesses
- 11/4/24 – Disclosure of Rebuttal Witnesses
- 1/3/25 – Discovery Cutoff
- 3/7/25 – Dispositive Motions Heard (on or before this date)
- 3/7/25 – Mediation/ADR Settlement Conference (on or before this date)
- 5/2/25 – Pre-Trial Conference
- 6/2/25 – Non-Jury Trial

Informal Settlement Discussions began in January 2024.

At the Motion to Dismiss hearing held on March 22, 2024, Thurston County Superior Court Judge Allyson Zipp dismissed WSAC's lawsuit. WSAC and its co-plaintiff counties had 30 days from the date the decision was finalized to appeal Judge Zipp's ruling.

- On April 18, 2024, WSAC appealed the ruling directly to the Supreme Court.
- WSAC's Statement of Grounds for direct review was submitted May 3, 2024.
- WSAC Board of Directors authorized continuing the appeal on May 15, 2024.

- The hearing in Appeals Court Division II is scheduled for June 16th at 11 am in Tacoma

AUTHORIZED AND ACTIVE AMICUS CURIAE

City of Sammamish v. John Titcomb, Jr. and Linde R. Behringer, Washington State Supreme Court, Number 101894-1.

The City of Sammamish filed for condemnation of Mr. Titcomb's and Mrs. Behringer's property on July 21, 2021, and subsequently moved for an order adjudicating public use and necessity. In February 2022, the superior court denied the city's motion and dismissed the condemnation action. On March 13, 2023, Division One of the Court of Appeals reversed the superior court's decision. The Washington State Supreme Court granted review which has been tentatively scheduled for oral argument during the 2024 Winter Term. King County prepared the amicus brief.

- 9/12/2024 Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Appeals and held that the City is statutorily authorized to condemn property for stormwater projects, pursuant to RCW 8.12.030, and remanded the case to the trial court for further proceedings.

State of Washington, et. al., Respondents, vs. DSHS, COA No. 57573-6-II.

The WSAC Board of Directors authorized an amicus curie brief in State of Washington, et. al., Respondents, vs. DSHS, COA No. 57573-6-II. The issue is whether counties can seek compensatory contempt sanctions against the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) when DSHS fails to timely transport Trueblood class members from jail, for admission at a state hospital for competency restoration, leaving counties to cover the costs of incarceration until the class members are transported. There is also a question as to whether a county may intervene in an underlying matter in order to pursue contempt sanctions against DSHS. The new schedule for this case is as follows:

- 12/4/23 – Opening Brief of Appellant
- 1/3/24 – Opening Brief of Respondent
- 2/17/24 – Brief of Amicus Curiae – After a motion under RAP 10.6 granting permission to file the brief, the brief must be filed no later than 45 days after the filing of the last brief of Respondent.

On February 28, 2024, Appellant (DSHS) and the Respondent-Cross-Appellants (45 individual defendants) filed their opening briefs. Pierce County will likely file its brief on June 28, 2024.

METHOW VALLEY CITIZENS COUNCIL v. OKANOGAN COUNTY, COA No. 407471

The WSAC Board of Directors authorized an amicus curie brief in METHOW VALLEY CITIZENS COUNCIL v. OKANOGAN COUNTY, COA No. 407471, and joined the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys (WSAMA) to file.

The Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW (the "PRA"), serves an important public interest: providing the public with access to public records in furtherance of government transparency and accountability. But that transparency is not absolute, and in adopting the PRA, the legislature struck a balance between transparency and the needs of Washington's public agencies to engage with and rely on confidential legal advice.

As a result, the PRA does not permit the public to access records protected by the attorney-client privilege. Washington's public entities are permitted to consult with attorneys and obtain legal advice to best serve the

public by understanding and evaluating the legal risks associated with their policies and decisions and to preserve that advice from disclosure under the PRA.

Based on the plain language of the PRA as interpreted and applied by the courts, legal advice given to public entities is not subject to the watered-down protections urged by MVCC. Instead, the PRA confirms that a confidential attorney-client relationship is fundamental to the efficient and effective function of government and the same protections afforded to advice given an individual or business.

The County's redactions to the Memorandum for attorney-client privilege are fully consistent with the PRA's directives and policies. By contrast, MVCC's arguments ignore the PRA and the law governing attorney-client privilege. Accepting MVCC's theories would erode public agencies' ability to obtain protected legal advice to the public's detriment.

Motion and brief filed November 7, 2024.

Jamie Beenen, Appellant v. Lewis County, et al. No. 59591-5 (Wash. Ct. App. Jan. 17, 2025)

WSAC Executive Committee authorized filing an amicus brief because of the possibility of a negative outcome dramatically increasing liability to counties as property owners and lessors. Jamie Beenen was in a skydiving accident with a company operating out of an airport owned by Lewis County. Beenen asserts that Lewis County, as a government agency, has a special premises liability duty that would turn existing law and precedent on its head.

The trial court correctly dismissed on summary judgment, and we are asking the Appeals Court for the same.

Motion and brief filed January 17, 2025.

May 8, 2025



BUSINESS ACTION AND REPORTS



Resolution #2025-09

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties Board of Directors is charged under its Bylaws and Policies with appointing an **Executive Director**; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee, through the consultation of a recruitment firm and review from the Executive Search Committee, have a recommended candidate to fulfill the duties of the Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, WSAC's Executive Committee recommends the following candidate as the **Executive Director for WSAC: TBD**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Association of Counties Board of Directors ratifies the approval of **TBD as the Executive Director**.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on May 8, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC Second Vice-President



May 8, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Derek Young, Interim Executive Director

PREPARED BY: Jessica Strozewski, Member Experience Manager

SUBJECT: Appointments and Nominations to Statewide Boards & Commissions

The following nominations were received for an open county, or local government represented positions on statewide boards and commissions. Attached are applications from each candidate.

WSAC Policy on Board Appointment/Nomination Process

For Boards or Commissions where the WSAC Board of Directors is responsible for nominating individuals, the following process will be used:

The Board of Directors may approve that all nominees be forwarded to the appointing authority for further review via voice vote.

For Boards or Commissions where the WSAC Board of Directors has appointing authority, the following process will be used:

For positions receiving two statements of interest, the Board of Directors shall conduct a hand vote to determine which candidate is the nominee/appointee. For positions receiving more than two statements of interest and where it is necessary to reduce the number of nominees, the board shall conduct an exhaustive ballot voting system until it is determined which candidate(s) are the nominee/appointee.

The exhaustive ballot voting system provides that each board member casts a single vote for their selected nominee. If no candidate is supported by a majority of votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and a further round of voting occurs. This process is repeated for as many rounds as necessary until one nominee has a majority of the Board of Directors present to vote. If more than one nominee needs to be selected, the Board shall continue to vote until a second nominee has a majority, and so on.

Appointments by WSAC

County Road Administration Board (Elected official <30k population)

Eligibility: Elected County Official (county population below 30,000)

Number of Positions: One | Applications Received: Three

John Gentle, Pend Oreille County Commissioner
Robert Rosencrantz, Pend Oreille County Commissioner
Zack Trudell, Ferry County Commissioner

County Road Administration Board (Elected official 30k-150k population)

Eligibility: Elected County Official (county population between 30,000 and 150,000)

Number of Positions: One | Applications Received: One

Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner (incumbent)

County Road Administration Board (County Engineer 30k-150k population)

Eligibility: County Engineer (county population between 30,000 and 150,000)

Number of Positions: One | Applications Received: One

Eric Pierson, Chelan County Engineer and Public Works Director (incumbent)

Ecosystem Coordination Board (Alternate)

Eligibility: County Representative

Number of Positions: One | Applications Received: One

Carolina Mejia, Thurston County Commissioner

Openings Requiring Applicants

Ecosystem Coordination Board (Primary)

Appointing Authority: Puget Sound Partnership

Eligibility: County Representative

Number of Positions: One | Applications Received: None

Pipeline Safety, Citizens' Committee on

Appointing Authority: Governor

Eligibility: Elected County Official

Number of Positions: One | Applications Received: None

Public Works Board

Eligibility: County Engineer or Public Works Director

Number of Positions: One | Applications Received: Two

Must submit 3 names

James Wege, Lincoln County Engineer

Matt Zarecor, Spokane County Engineer



Resolution #2025-10

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors is charged with making recommendations and/or appointments to numerous Washington State boards, commissions, and committees, and

WHEREAS, it is vital that county governments' interests are fully represented on statewide boards, commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the County Road Administration Board for an Elected County Official with a county population below 30,000; and

WHEREAS, the following county representatives have sought nomination for this vacancy:

John Gentle, Pend Oreille County Commissioner
Robert Rosencrantz, Pend Oreille County Commissioner
Zack Trudell, Ferry County Commissioner

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors appoints the following county representative to the County Road Administration Board:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff be directed to immediately transmit the nominee's name(s) to the County Road Administration Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff is directed to contact the nominees of their selection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applicants not selected be notified and thanked for their commitment and interest in representing county government.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on May 8, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC 2nd Vice President



Resolution #2025-11

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors is charged with making recommendations and/or appointments to numerous Washington State boards, commissions, and committees, and

WHEREAS, it is vital that county governments' interests are fully represented on statewide boards, commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the County Road Administration Board for an Elected County Official with a county population between 30,000 and 150,000; and

WHEREAS, the following county representatives have sought nomination for this vacancy:

Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors appoints the following county representative to the County Road Administration Board:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff be directed to immediately transmit the nominee's name(s) to the County Road Administration Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff is directed to contact the nominees of their selection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applicants not selected be notified and thanked for their commitment and interest in representing county government.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on May 8, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC 2nd Vice President



Resolution #2025-12

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors is charged with making recommendations and/or appointments to numerous Washington State boards, commissions, and committees, and

WHEREAS, it is vital that county governments' interests are fully represented on statewide boards, commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the County Road Administration Board for a County Engineer with a county population between 30,000 and 150,000; and

WHEREAS, the following county representatives have sought nomination for this vacancy:

Eric Pierson, Chelan County Engineer and Public Works Director

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors appoints the following county representative to the County Road Administration Board:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff be directed to immediately transmit the nominee's name(s) to the County Road Administration Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff is directed to contact the nominees of their selection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applicants not selected be notified and thanked for their commitment and interest in representing county government.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on May 8, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC 2nd Vice President



Resolution #2025-13

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors is charged with making recommendations and/or appointments to numerous Washington State boards, commissions, and committees, and

WHEREAS, it is vital that county governments' interests are fully represented on statewide boards, commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the Ecosystem Coordination Board for an Alternate; and

WHEREAS, the following county representatives have sought nomination for this vacancy:

Carolina Mejia, Thurston County Commissioner

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors appoints the following county representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff be directed to immediately transmit the nominee's name(s) to the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff is directed to contact the nominees of their selection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applicants not selected be notified and thanked for their commitment and interest in representing county government.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on May 8, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC 2nd Vice President

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest:

CRAB <30k Elected

Name

John Gentle

Title

Commissioner

County:

Pend Oreille County

If elected official, your current term ends?

Monday, December 31, 2029

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements?

Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities?

Yes

Statement of Interest:

My interest in the county road administration board stems from my advocacy for local roads in the legislative steering committee. Some of the feedback I've received from legislators is that they aren't all getting good information to advance the cause of road funding, specifically for O&M. While I am eager to tell the story of the state of roads in remote rural Washington, I am also anxious to give all counties a proscribed pathway to fight for road dollars.

Transportation, and the ability to get safely from one point to another within my county, represents the most fundamental agreement between me and the taxpayer. This infrastructure needs to be elevated to its proper place in the funding hierarchy, and in a state of competing priorities that means we have to tell our stories better.

-John

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest:

CRAB <30k Elected

Name

Robert Rosencrantz

Title

County Commissioner

County:

Pend Oreille County

If elected official, your current term ends?

Thursday, December 31, 2026

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements?

Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities?

Yes

Statement of Interest:

I'm interested in serving on this Board because Pend Oreille County roads are falling apart and we have very limited resources to maintain or upgrade them. Serving on this Board would provide a means to help influence and persuade decision makers to provide more appropriate funding.

My background includes 35 years as a real estate broker, developer and owner/manager of apartment buildings. For twelve years I represented Wall Street firms in their real estate acquisition/disposition of large multi-family portfolios.

I also served as executive director of the Northwest Affordable Housing Association [NAHA] at a time it was at risk of insolvency. During a one-year period I significantly cut the operating budget, renegotiated regulatory agreements with municipalities and agencies, and obtained approval from the IRS to amend the structure of NAHA to preserve tax credit status and prevent recapture of previously taken deductions by investors.

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest:

CRAB <30k Elected

Name

Zack Trudell

Title

Commissioner

County:

Ferry County

If elected official, your current term ends?

Sunday, December 31, 2028

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements?

Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities?

Yes

Statement of Interest:

To whom it may concern,

I grew up in a frontier county where occasional bad roads were just a normal part of life. During my 23 year career with the US Navy, I spent time in nearly 50 countries where I was exposed to the result of many different road construction and maintenance philosophies. When my service in the Navy came to an end, I returned home to where I was raised. Shortly thereafter, a need arose for a substitute on the rural mail carrier route that serves my community. While serving in that capacity I became intimately familiar with each of the roads serving the people of my area. Much to my dismay, and with the exposure to so many different countries' roads fresh in my memory, I came to a troubling realization. I realized that most if not all of the various countries I'd visited, some of which are considered "third world", have better roads than my community. The worst example being a particular 29 mile stretch on which a round trip requires one to cross the fog line with one or both tires an astounding 171 times in order to avoid a potentially damaging pot hole at 30mph. This figure becomes even more intense with the realization that in winter time, snow berms on the roadside necessitate all of those fog line crossings become center line crossings.

I brought my concerns and statistics to my Board of County Commissioners and was met initially with outright denial of the conditions followed by a general "not much we can do".

When provided the opportunity to serve as a Commissioner myself, I took it with the hope, like most, of improving conditions for my community. Upon assuming the role, I quickly discovered that the position of County Commissioner, in many counties, was initially instituted as a Road Commissioner. That only

served to embolden my focus on roads. I've made it my practice to regularly drive the roads in my county with my figurative "Road Commissioner" hat on, looking out for or substantiating road issues

The opportunity to be considered for membership on the CRABoard is to me, an avenue to further my advocacy for small counties. I recognize that mine is not the only community in which "not much we can do" is the pervasive mindset. That's not a good enough answer and our citizens deserve better. I don't yet know what that better answer is, but I look forward to being part of the solution.

Thank you very much for your time.

Very Respectfully,

Zack Trudell

Chairman, Ferry County Board of County Commissioners

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest:	CRAB 30-150k Elected
Name	Peter Browning
Title	County Commissioner
County:	Skagit County
If elected official, your current term ends?	Sunday, December 31, 2028
Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements?	Yes
As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities?	Yes

Statement of Interest:

I have been on the CRAB Board for the last two years and am very committed to maintaining the quality of roads for rural Washington State. The political advocacy is something I am comfortable with. I am accustomed to making decisions and thinking through a rational justification that I can communicate. My years in public health leadership helped me see my role as determining what is best for the whole state not just the county I represent. I am not just a person who fills a seat.

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest: CRAB 30-150k Engineer

Name Eric Pierson

Title Director/County Engineer

County: Chelan County

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements? Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities? Yes

Statement of Interest:
I would like to continue representing Counties between 30K and 150K. With my experience as the County Engineer for Chelan County along with my experience serving on the CRAB Board, I feel I can continue to represent them well.

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest: Ecosystem Coordination Board - Alternate

Name Carolina Mejia

Title Commissioner

County: Thurston County

If elected official, your current term ends? Sunday, December 31, 2028

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements? Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities? Yes

Statement of Interest:

I’m writing to express my interest in serving as an alternate member of the Ecosystem Coordination Board. As a Thurston County Commissioner, I care deeply about the health of Puget Sound and believe in the importance of working together across jurisdictions to protect and restore it.

Thurston County is part of the South Sound, where we see the connections between healthy ecosystems and the wellbeing of our communities every day. From salmon recovery to shoreline restoration to clean water, this work is essential to the long-term future of our region. I want to be part of those conversations, even in a supporting role, to help keep the momentum going and ensure local voices are included in shaping decisions.

I believe the Puget Sound Partnership’s collaborative model is the right one. The problems facing Puget Sound are complex, and they require all of us—local, state, tribal, and community partners—to pull in the same direction. I bring experience working with different levels of government and with community groups, and I’m committed to making sure that we approach this work with equity and inclusion in mind.

As an alternate, I'd be ready to step in when needed, stay engaged with the board's discussions, and support the primary member however I can. I see this as an opportunity to stay connected to regional efforts, represent the South Sound perspective, and contribute to solutions that reflect the values of the people I serve.

Thank you for considering my interest in this role.

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest: Public Works Board

Name James Wege

Title County Engineer

County: Lincoln County

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements? Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities? Yes

Statement of Interest:

I'm interested in serving on the Public Works Board to help fund infrastructure in Washington communities.

Creating the infrastructure that enhances communities is best managed by the local agencies, who know their specific needs and requirements. These eligible applicants often do not have local revenue sufficient to self-fund their projects. As a member of the Public Works Board, I will collaboratively evaluate and score proposals, leveraging my decades of experience in public sector engineering, to distribute funds to those projects with the greatest benefit and chance of success.

From 2001 to 2021, I worked for WSDOT inspecting an aging infrastructure of bridges, ferry terminals, tunnels, overhead signs, radio towers, and other structures. I've seen firsthand how deferred maintenance has negative effects on steel, concrete, and wood, and the electrical and mechanical components that keep our modern world

in motion. Now, as a County Engineer with experience in two rural counties, I see the financial challenges our local communities face. Costs rise, while revenue stagnates. Luckily, the State created the Public Works Board forty years ago, addressing the challenges by distributing funds from the Public Works Assistance Account.

Civil Engineering is a broad field, and I am heartened to see a number of Professional Engineers on the PWB. I would be honored to join them, the elected officials, and the other members of the Board, and we will each bring our unique experience and perspective to evaluating funding applications. In this era of declining funding, difficult choices must be made, and engineers can dispassionately and responsibly match the greatest benefit with the greatest need.

Thank you for the opportunity!

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest: Public Works Board

Name Matt Zarecor

Title County Engineer

County: Spokane County

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements? Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities? Yes

Statement of Interest:

Thank you for considering my application to be on the Public Works Board. I have worked for Spokane County for 24 years in a variety of positions including our Capital Construction group, Assistant County Engineer, and now County Engineer. I am excited about the opportunity to assist communities in making their vital infrastructure improvements a reality. Your consideration of application is greatly appreciated.

May 8, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Derek Young, Interim Executive Director

PREPARED BY: Bridget Lockling, Operations and Administration Director

SUBJECT: Business and Finance Report Year End 2024

Cash

WSAC ended 2023 with a total cash position of \$1,424,767. This is almost \$46k higher than ending cash last year, primarily due to the timing of cash transactions.

Liabilities

Deferred Revenues would normally be lower in the fourth quarter of the year. The increase is due to the invoicing process for our Department of Commerce Energy Audit grant. We were allowed to invoice before cash outlays to ensure timely payments because of cash flow concerns.

Budget to Actual Activity

The combined All Funds Actual vs. Budget in Summary 12/31/2024 report shows a positive \$156,374 bottom line. This is over \$552k more than budgeted, but largely in Litigation funds due to less legal expenses than budgeted. The following items highlight significant budget variances and the reason for the increase:

Revenues

- Dues – The variance from General and Program dues comes from the King County withdrawal of membership. The Board approved a reduced rate for King County, which is why the variance is around \$270k.
- Contract Services – Two new contracts are not reflected in the budget, so the variance shows an additional \$226k in revenue compared to the budgeted. Those two new contracts actually accounted for over \$425k in revenue in 2024. The DOT study contract was nearly \$200k below budget, however.
- Affiliate Assessments – Revenue here includes the County Engineers, and the Local Public Health Officials Associations. The overage is related to a miscalculation in the budget on the WSALPHO side, which is offset within the Payroll & Benefits expense.
- Conferences & Events—The majority of this revenue comes from the County Leaders Conference. Due to increased sponsorships, this event's revenues were almost \$20k over budget.

Expenses

- Payroll and Benefits – While the variance shows we were on target, there would be a variance to reflect the miscalculation from the WSALPHO affiliate, but there is also a vacancy in a staff position, which evens things out.
- Meetings, Travel & Conferences – This category was under budget by 20%. There were savings from the annual executive retreat, but most are from the travel costs budgeted for a permanent Executive Director. That budget item was moved to 2025.

- Conferences & Events—While the total variance is only about 5%, the savings compared to the budgeted for the County Leaders conference are notable. The reduced expenses, along with the increased revenue, created almost \$50k in earnings overall for the conference.
- Contract & Professional Services – The underexpenditure of \$217k in Contract Services is due to the litigation fund, where we only spent \$238k of the \$600k budgeted for legal services. Our Operating budget is over in this category due to the two new contracts, offset by the under expenditure of the DOT grant. Professional services are underspent due to less marketing, taking on the salary survey in house, and lower auditing costs than anticipated.
- Technology and Telecom – This included a research contract that we did not continue.
- General Operating – Final expenses came in 20% under budget. This was mainly due to staff training that did not happen in 2024, reduced continuing education costs, and fewer supplies.

Non-Dues Revenue

Endorsement and Marketing revenues from NACo programs came in at 91% of budgeted in 2024.

Program	Budget	Actual
NACo LLC Deferred Comp	\$126,000	\$127,715
NACo Live Healthy Prescription Discount Card	2,000	0
Liberty Mutual	3,600	871.20
NACo Other (includes CashVest)	20,000	14,114
Public Surplus	<u>10,000</u>	<u>4,375</u>
	<u>\$161,600</u>	<u>\$147,074</u>

Our other largest source of non-dues revenue was from interest earnings. We were able to earn almost \$64k in interest by increasing funds deposited in high yield CD's throughout the year.

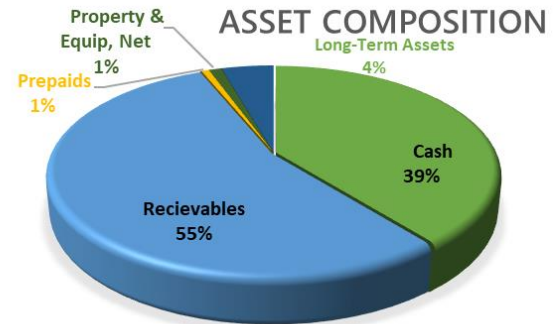
Our tiered business partner program increased in 2024. There has been a lot more interest, which is also reflected in our increased conference sponsorships. With a new program being launched in 2025, we hope to create a significant revenue source by 2026.

2024 Financial Dashboard

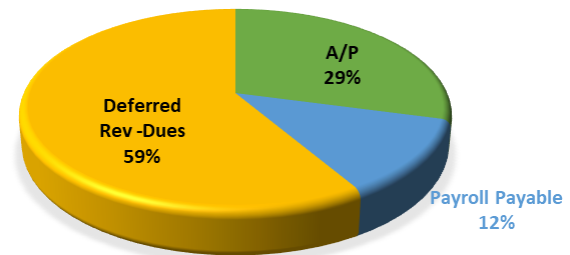
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF 12/31/2024

Litigation \$638,604	Litigation \$635,905	Litigation \$2,699
Special \$1,266,409	Special \$1,251,486	Special \$14,923
Operating \$1,729,426	Operating -\$50,821	Operating \$1,678,604
Total Assets, \$3,634,439	Net Assets/Equity, \$1,938,212	Total Liabilities, \$1,696,227

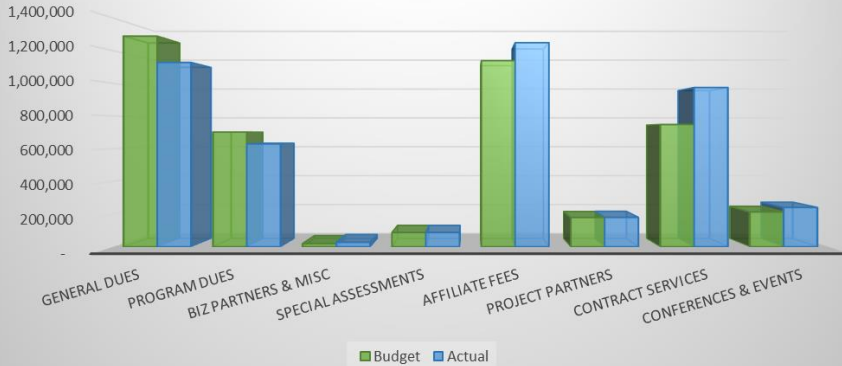


LIABILITIES COMPOSITION



2024 Revenues Budget to Actual

as of 12/31/2024



2024 Operating Fund

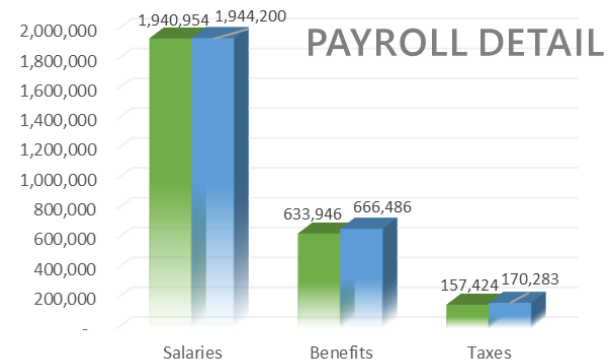
Revenues are 103% of Budgeted YTD
Expenses are at 101% of Budgeted YTD
Two unbudgeted projects provided for \$440k in earned revenue
Loss of dues revenue from reduced membership
Almost \$50k in earnings from County Leaders Conference

2024 Expenses Budget to Actual

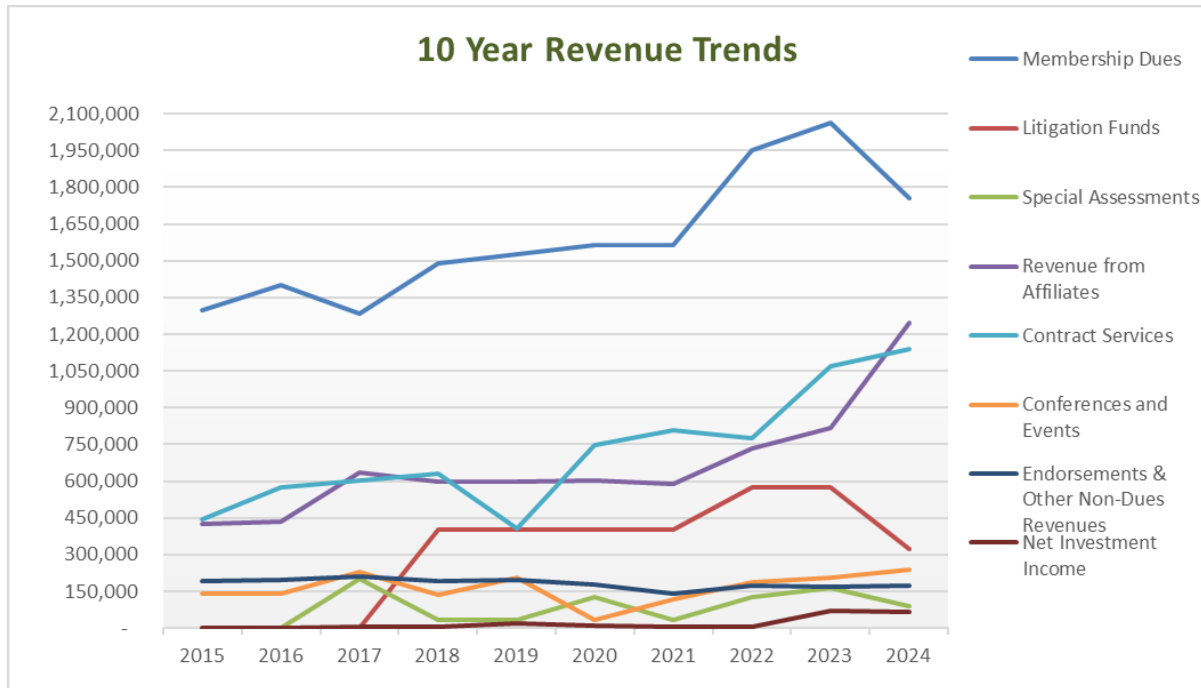
as of 12/31/2024



PAYROLL DETAIL



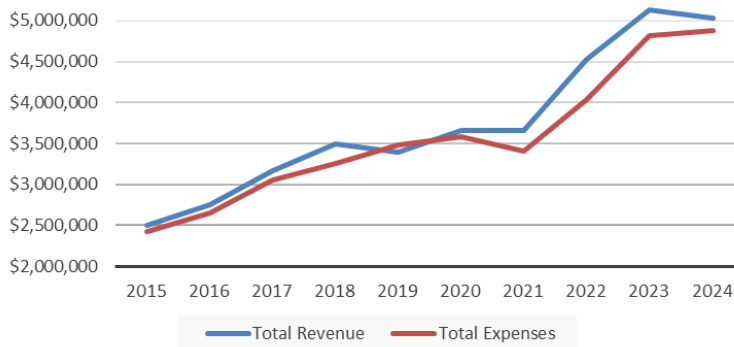
Financial Dashboard – Historic



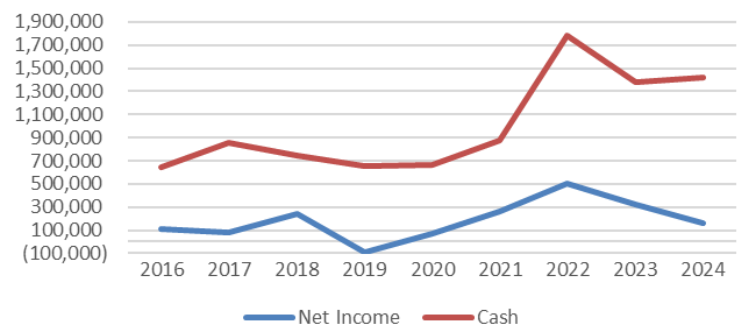
Trend:

Revenues remained fairly consistent as dues increases are based on CPI adjustments, ranging from 2%- 3%. The spike in 2022 was due to 1 new affiliate assessment and 2 special one-time assessments, as well as a dues catchup from a prior year rate pass. This does not reflect unpaid dues, this is shown as a bad debt expense. The revenue reduction in 2024 is due to the loss of King County. Growth in Affiliate Revenue comes from the expansion of WSALPHO.

Revenue & Expense Trends



Net Income & Cash Trends



Statement of Financial Position, by Fund
 For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

	Operating Fund	Special Fund	Litigation Fund	Total 12/31/24	12/31/2023	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Assets							
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ (448,054)	\$ 1,234,217	\$ 638,604	\$ 1,424,767	\$ 1,378,891	\$ 1,783,018	\$ 878,586
Receivables & Other Current Assets	1,952,310	32,192	-	1,984,502	1,661,514	626,608	521,288
Prepays	23,750	-	-	23,750	39,818	12,149	22,496
Property & Equipment, Net	38,906	-	-	38,906	55,892	66,991	34,739
Long-Term and Other Assets							
Counties Building Partnership	162,514	-	-	162,514	146,330	146,330	146,330
NACo RMA LLC Partnership	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,549
Total Assets	\$ 1,729,426	\$ 1,266,409	\$ 638,604	\$ 3,634,439	\$ 3,282,446	\$ 2,635,096	\$ 1,604,988
Liabilities & Unrestricted Equity							
Accounts Payable	\$ 478,660	\$ 14,923	\$ 1,289	\$ 494,872	\$ 664,335	\$ 243,025	\$ 159,267
Payroll Payable	207,541	-	1,410	208,951	245,786	225,034	183,568
Deferred Revenues	961,178	-	-	961,178	471,161	528,661	63,281
Net Assets							
Undesignated	82,047	1,131,486	635,905	1,849,438	1,781,164	1,518,376	996,872
Board Designated	-	120,000	-	120,000	120,000	120,000	202,000
Total Net Assets	\$ 82,047	\$ 1,251,486	\$ 635,905	\$ 1,969,438	\$ 1,901,164	\$ 1,638,376	\$ 1,198,872
Total Liabilities & Unrestricted Equity	\$ 1,729,426	\$ 1,266,409	\$ 638,604	\$ 3,634,439	\$ 3,282,446	\$ 2,635,096	\$ 1,604,988

Key factors for changes in WSAC's Assets and Equity between 2021 and 2024:

- Cash –Cash flow is higher in the beginning of the year and is reduced as it is used throughout the year on general expenses. Cash remained stable from previous year as expenditures were lower than anticipated.
- Receivables & Other Current Assets - The receivables in the fourth quarter are higher in 2024 due to a large invoice for our Energy Audit grant.
- Liabilities – Deferred Revenues will decrease throughout the year as Dues are earned quarterly. Deferred revenues are high in 2024 due to the Energy Audit grant billing process.

Actual vs. Budget in Summary
For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

Operating Fund	Total Budget	Budget 12/31/2024	Actual 12/31/2024	Variance (unfavorable)	12/31/2023	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Revenue							
Dues-General	\$ 1,288,141	\$ 1,288,141	\$ 1,127,374	\$ (160,767)	\$ 1,871,101	\$ 1,773,470	\$ 1,564,072
Dues-Program	\$ 701,747	\$ 701,747	\$ 628,807	\$ (72,940)			
Business Partner Fees	10,000	10,000	15,000	\$ 5,000	9,625	8,125	-
Special Assessments	87,500	87,500	87,500	\$ -	127,500	127,500	35,000
Affiliate Assessments	1,138,175	1,138,175	1,248,223	\$ 110,048	1,013,991	916,569	588,170
Project Partners	179,040	179,040	180,040	\$ 1,000			
Contract Services	747,976	747,976	960,135	\$ 212,159	1,099,676	771,222	807,107
Conferences and Events	213,000	213,000	240,605	\$ 27,605	206,485	185,678	119,670
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	9,600	9,600	12,711	3,111	5,620	10,000	-
Total Revenue	\$ 4,375,179	\$ 4,375,179	\$ 4,500,395	\$ 125,216	\$ 4,333,999	\$ 3,792,564	\$ 3,114,020
Operating Expense							
Payroll and Benefits	\$ 2,732,324	\$ 2,732,324	\$ 2,780,970	\$ (48,646)	\$ 2,381,870	\$ 2,153,433	\$ 1,653,783
Meetings, Travel and Hosting	170,050	170,050	142,398	27,652	167,835	152,981	65,327
Conferences and Events	223,700	223,700	199,270	24,430	192,943	230,016	194,232
Contract Services	783,200	783,200	927,873	(144,673)	881,437	666,895	731,608
Professional Services Other	202,000	202,000	171,283	30,717	187,815	139,806	112,188
Technology and Telecom	130,155	130,155	88,672	41,483	114,863	65,052	42,442
General Operating	183,291	183,291	146,564	36,727	417,388	278,730	199,064
Total Operating Expense	\$ 4,424,720	\$ 4,424,720	\$ 4,457,030	\$ (32,310)	\$ 4,344,152	\$ 3,686,913	\$ 2,998,643
Changes in Net Assets	\$ (49,541)	\$ (49,541)	\$ 43,365	\$ 92,906	\$ (10,153)	\$ 105,651	\$ 115,376
Dues as a % of Total Revenue	29.4%		25.1%		43.2%	46.8%	50.2%
# of Permanent Staff	19		18		16	15	12
Payroll Exp as % of Total Exp	62%		62%		55%	58%	55%
Net Income as % of Revenue	-1%		1%		0%	3%	4%

Actual vs. Budget in Summary
For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

Special Fund	Total Budget	Budget 12/31/2024	Actual 12/31/2024	Variance (unfavorable)	12/31/2023	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Revenue							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marketing and Royalties	161,600	161,600	147,075	(14,525)	152,179	155,060	142,706
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	500	500	-	(500)	-	-	-
Interest Earnings	30,000	30,000	63,860	33,860	69,711	7,783	4,569
Total Revenue	\$ 192,100	\$ 192,100	\$ 210,935	\$ 18,835	\$ 221,890	\$ 162,844	\$ 147,275
Operating Expense							
Meetings, Travel and Hosting	60,000	60,000	46,861	13,139	52,295	13,191	4,278
Conferences and Events	20,000	20,000	13,133	6,867	12,756	11,228	101
Professional Services Other	7,500	7,500	7,500	-	7,500	7,500	7,500
Technology and Telecom	5,500	5,500	50	5,450	3,937	5,282	2,626
General Operating	16,750	16,750	11,886	4,864	15,743	15,966	11,135
Total Operating Expense	\$ 109,750	\$ 109,750	\$ 79,429	\$ 30,321	\$ 92,230	\$ 53,167	\$ 25,639
Changes in Net Assets	\$ 82,350	\$ 82,350	\$ 131,505	\$ 49,155	\$ 129,660	\$ 109,677	\$ 121,636
Dues as a % of Total Revenue	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
# of Permanent Staff	19		18		16	15	12
Payroll Exp as % of Total Exp	0%		0%		0%	0%	0%
Net Income as % of Revenue	43%		62%		58%	67%	83%

Actual vs. Budget in Summary
For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

Litigation Fund	Total Budget	Budget 12/31/2024	Actual 12/31/2024	Variance (unfavorable)	12/31/2023	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Revenue							
Dues	\$ 360,938	\$ 360,938	\$ 321,875	\$ (39,063)	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Special Assessments	-	-	-	-	175,000	175,000	-
Total Revenue	\$ 360,938	\$ 360,938	\$ 321,875	\$ (39,063)	\$ 575,000	\$ 575,000	\$ 400,000
Operating Expense							
Payroll and Benefits	\$ 129,348	\$ 129,348	\$ 86,381	\$ 42,967	\$ 76,080	\$ 88,669	\$ 113,798
Meetings, Travel and Hosting	7,500	7,500	-	7,500	-	16	62
Conferences and Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Services	600,000	600,000	238,198	361,802	-	-	-
Professional Services Other	65,000	65,000	10,734	54,266	260,071	180,378	255,002
Technology and Telecom	1,743	1,743	393	1,350	8	1,556	1,200
General Operating	6,009	6,009	4,665	1,344	40,668	20,672	7,031
Total Operating Expense	\$ 809,600	\$ 809,600	\$ 340,371	\$ 469,229	\$ 376,828	\$ 291,290	\$ 377,093
Changes in Net Assets	\$ (448,662)	\$ (448,662)	\$ (18,496)	\$ 430,166	\$ 198,172	\$ 283,710	\$ 22,907
Dues as a % of Total Revenue	100.0%		100.0%		69.6%	69.6%	100.0%
# of Permanent Staff	19		18		16	15	12
Payroll Exp as % of Total Exp	16%		25%		20%	30%	30%
Net Income as % of Revenue	-124%		-6%		34%	49%	6%

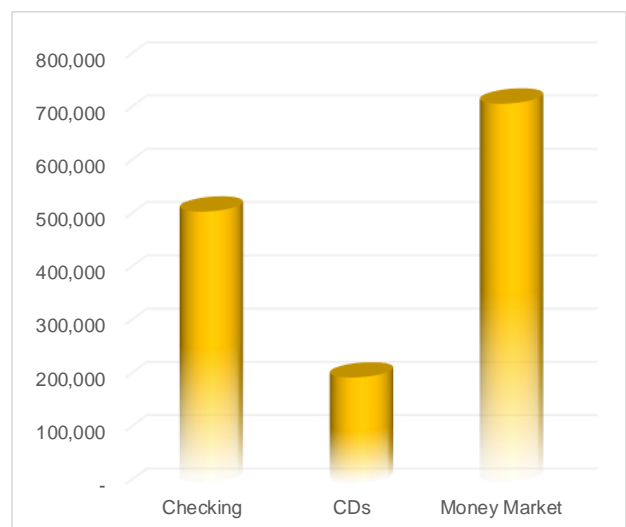
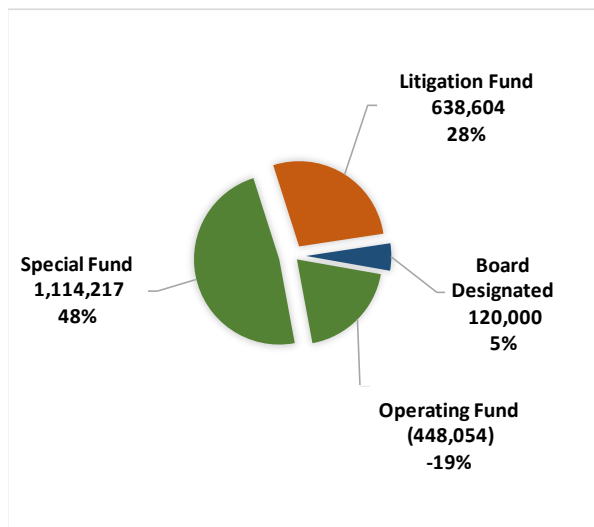
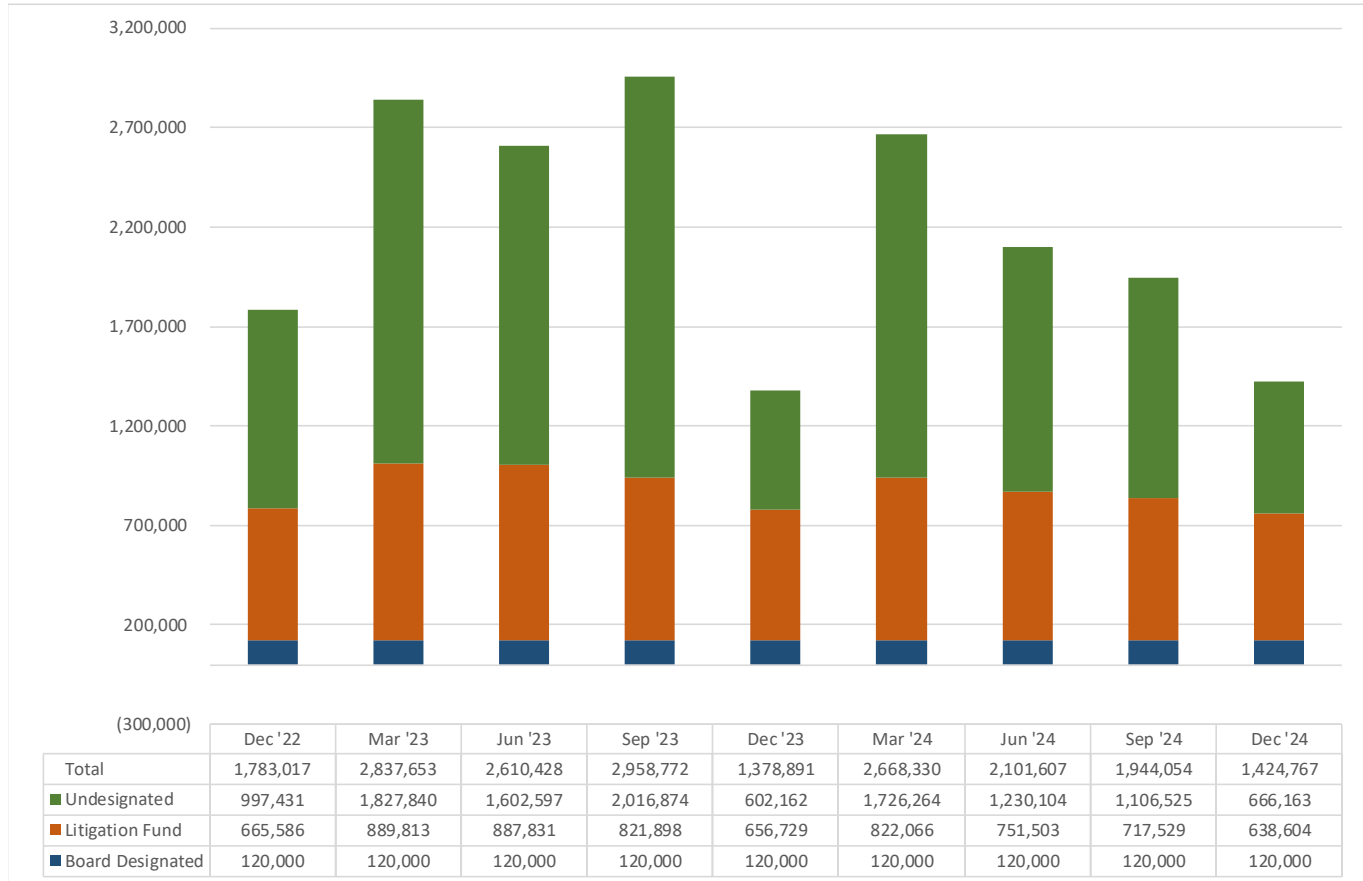
Actual vs. Budget in Summary
 For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

Combined Funds-ALL	Total Budget	Budget 12/31/2024	Actual 12/31/2024	Variance (unfavorable)	12/31/2023	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Revenue							
Dues-General	\$ 1,649,079	\$ 1,649,079	\$ 1,449,249	\$ (199,830)	\$ 2,271,101	\$ 2,173,470	\$ 1,964,072
Dues-Program	\$ 701,747	\$ 701,747	\$ 628,807	\$ (72,940)			
Business Partner Fees	10,000	10,000	15,000	5,000	9,625	8,125	-
Special Assessments	87,500	87,500	87,500	-	302,500	302,500	35,000
Affiliate Assessments	1,138,175	1,138,175	1,248,223	110,048	1,013,991	916,569	588,170
Project Partners	179,040	179,040	180,040	1,000			
Contract Services	747,976	747,976	960,135	212,159	1,099,676	771,222	807,107
Conferences and Events	213,000	213,000	240,605	27,605	206,485	185,678	119,670
Marketing and Royalties	161,600	161,600	147,075	(14,525)	152,179	155,060	142,706
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	10,100	10,100	12,711	2,611	5,620	10,000	-
Interest Earnings	30,000	30,000	63,860	33,860	69,711	7,783	4,569
Total Revenue	\$ 4,928,217	\$ 4,928,217	\$ 5,033,205	\$ 104,988	\$ 5,130,889	\$ 4,530,408	\$ 3,661,295
Operating Expense							
Payroll and Benefits	\$ 2,861,672	\$ 2,861,672	\$ 2,867,351	\$ (5,679)	\$ 2,457,950	\$ 2,242,102	\$ 1,767,581
Meetings, Travel and Hosting	237,550	237,550	189,260	48,290	216,609	166,188	69,667
Conferences and Events	243,700	223,700	212,403	11,297	205,699	241,244	194,332
Contract Services	1,383,200	1,383,200	1,166,071	217,129	881,437	666,895	731,608
Professional Services Other	274,500	274,500	189,517	84,983	455,386	327,684	374,690
Technology and Telecom	137,398	137,398	89,116	48,282	118,808	71,890	46,267
General Operating	206,050	206,050	163,115	42,935	473,982	315,367	217,230
Total Operating Expense	\$ 5,344,070	\$ 5,324,070	\$ 4,876,831	\$ 447,239	\$ 4,809,871	\$ 4,031,370	\$ 3,401,376
Changes in Net Assets	\$ (415,853)	\$ (395,853)	\$ 156,374	\$ 552,227	\$ 321,018	\$ 499,038	\$ 259,919
Dues as a % of Total Revenue	33.5%		28.8%		44.3%	48.0%	53.6%
# of Permanent Staff	19		18		16	15	12
Payroll Exp as % of Total Exp	54%		59%		51%	56%	52%
Net Income as % of Revenue	-8%		3%		6%	11%	7%

Key factors for changes in WSAC's income and expenses between 2021 and 2024:

- Dues revenue increases are a result of COLA adjustments each year. 2022 had three new assessments. 2024 reductions from loss of county member.
- Affiliate assessment revenues are based on actual expenses from the affiliates WSAC manages (recorded within Operating Expense) with a 12% overhead charge added.
- Payroll and Benefits – Variances in payroll are generally due to staff vacancies. Two new positions were added in 2022. Four new positions were added in 2023.
- Professional Services and Contracts – Variances due to changes in contract needs to make up for staff vacancies and new state contracts.

Total Cash & Investment Position - All Funds
For The Quarter Ended Dec 31, 2024



May 8, 2025



STAFF REPORTS



May 8, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors & Alternates

FROM: Derek Young, Interim Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director Report

As my time as Interim Executive Director of the Washington Association of Counties (WSAC) draws to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support, guidance, and collaboration over the past year. It has been a privilege to serve in this role and to work alongside such dedicated members and staff who are committed to the success of Washington's counties.

I am proud of WSAC's progress over the last year, thanks to your leadership and hard work. The past few months have been especially busy implementing our legislative strategy and developing new business relationships. My work since May:

- **Successful Legislative Session:** WSAC played a crucial role in advocating for county priorities during the recent legislative session. Our efforts secured funding for public safety and justice, critical infrastructure projects, and safeguarded county interests on key issues. This success is a testament to our strong relationships with state lawmakers and the effectiveness of our advocacy strategy. We aim to build on that momentum by engaging with key stakeholders, legislators, and agency leadership during the interim.
- **Financial Sustainability:** We are relaunching our business partner program, now called the Solutions Center. The goal is to provide ways for our members to reduce their costs, improve services, and provide WSAC with a reliable source of non-dues revenue. As we bring on new partners like Amazon and Alternative Claims Management, we've also collaborated with Alliant to conduct a feasibility analysis for starting a new trust to serve our members' health insurance needs.
- **Enhanced Member Services:** We have focused on increasing the value of WSAC membership by expanding professional development opportunities, providing new resources and tools, and enhancing communication channels. These efforts have boosted member engagement and established a foundation for ongoing growth in the tangible benefits of WSAC membership.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** WSAC has continued to strengthen its partnerships with other organizations, including the National Association of Counties (NACo), state agencies, and peer advocacy groups. Making WSAC an indispensable governmental partner advances our policy objectives and attracts potential business partners.
- **Organizational Stability:** During this transition, we have diligently worked to ensure organizational stability while maintaining a high level of service to our members. Although we faced challenges, our team has continued to deliver impressive results.

I am confident that WSAC, with its strong foundation and dedicated members, is well prepared to tackle future challenges and continue its journey of success under new leadership. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Executive Director.

Activities

In addition to participating and supporting other work outlined in other WSAC Division Reports, my primary activities have focused on the following since the February WSAC Board of Directors Meeting:

- 2025 Legislative Session – primarily focused on our public defense priority and supporting staff on public safety and justice, behavioral health, and juvenile justice.
- New Business Partnership Development
- Feasibility analysis for health trust
- Member Communication and Technical Assistance to County Elected Officials
- Litigation Program Implementation
- Public Defense Caseload Standards, Litigation Management, and Legislation

Partnership Activities

- Washington State Auditor's Office
- Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
- Association of Washington Cities
- Washington Association of County Officials
- Association of Washington Business
- Washington Public Ports Association
- Office of the Governor
- Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Office of Financial Management
- Washington State Association of County Engineers
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
- Foundational Public Health Services Steering Committee
- Washington County Administrators Association
- Business Partner Meetings
- State Broadband Office
- County Road Administration Board
- Department of Commerce
- Health Care Authority
- National Association of Counties
- NACo Edge

National Association of Counties

Registration is open for the 2025 NACo Annual Conference, July 11-14, 2025. For more information:

<https://www.naco.org/event/2025-naco-annual-conference-exposition>

Also, don't hesitate to get in touch with me if any county elected or appointed officials are interested in serving on a NACo Steering Committee or Caucus. Here is a link for more information:

<https://www.naco.org/page/committees-caucuses>

Western Interstate Region (WIR) — Our WIR Board Members, Commissioners McKinney and Swope, and I will be traveling to Pennington County, SD, for the annual WIR conference May 21-23.

National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE) — Through our national organization, I coordinated responses to ongoing policy and funding changes at the federal level. It has also provided me with educational and developmental opportunities with my peers, specifically focusing on their revenue and business models to alleviate pressure on membership dues. This work has fostered the development of new business partnerships.

Courthouse Briefings

It's time to start scheduling our Courthouse Briefings for 2025. During these Courthouse Briefings, we discuss:

- WSAC Financial Information and Administrative Issues
- State Legislative and Policy
- WSAC Federal Issues and Priorities
- Litigation and Legal Activities
- Member Services and Programs
- Business Partnerships
- WSAC/County Relationships
- Local County-Specific Issues

Here are the 9 Counties that we have met in person with since June 2024:

Adams	Kittitas	Spokane
Douglas	Pend Oreille	Stevens
Grant	Snohomish	Whatcom

With more emergent needs out of the way, I hope to reach more of you this year. If you'd like a WSAC visit to your county, please talk with your scheduling staff, and we'll get on your calendar. We aim to reach at least half of our member counties each year.

WSAC Staff

While the budget you approved anticipated filling one of the two vacant policy director positions, Paul and I feel that, given the policy team's success during the last session and the improved but still uncertain revenue outlook, continuing with two contract consultants through the next session is the best path for us at this time.

She joined WSAC a little before the last Board meeting, but I'm not sure we've had the chance to introduce Tanya Naylor as our new Bookkeeper/Building Coordinator. Tanya is already making improvements around the County Building, especially on security, and helping reduce Bridget's finance workload.



May 8, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Derek Young, Interim Executive Director

PREPARED BY: Bridget Lockling, Operations and Administration Director

SUBJECT: Business, Finance, and Operations Report

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2024 Year-End Financial Report

WSAC ended 2024 with a total cash position of \$1,424,767. This is about \$46k higher than the ending cash position of 2023. At year-end, \$200,000 was invested in eConnectDirect CDs, but it was as high as \$2 million earlier in the year to take advantage of higher interest rates. Investment earnings were higher than anticipated in 2024, reaching almost \$64k, which is less than in 2023, but still significant. These investments yielded \$63,860 in 2024, \$69,711 in 2023, \$7,783 in 2022, \$4,570 in 2021, \$10,273 in 2020, \$18,026 in 2019, \$6,116 in 2018, and \$3,350 in 2017.

2025 First Quarter

First quarter financials are delayed due to the increased focus on other projects and the delay in getting all first quarter expenses in. There are no concerns upon initial review, however. High cash balances in the first quarter have been moved to CDs to earn interest. Expenses related to the legislative session and LSC meetings are lower than anticipated. State contract spending is still slow but expected to rise significantly before June as the contracts end.

2025 Dues

The 2025 dues billings were sent out in early January. Counties are sending in dues quickly this year and in full amounts. Dues must be paid by June 30th to stay an active member within WSAC. We will send reminders mid-May and a notice to Commissioners of non-paying counties at the beginning of June.

Dues

General Dues – 97% # collected / 92% \$ collected (1 county remaining-Clark)
Transportation Dues – 97% # collected / 95% \$ collected (1 county remaining-Thurston)
Public Lands Dues – 97% # collected / 93% \$ collected (1 county remaining-Clark)
Human Services Dues – 97% # collected / 86% \$ collected (1 county remaining-Pierce)
SLAC Dues – 97% # collected / 93% \$ collected (1 county remaining-Clark)
Solid Waste Dues – 97% # collected / 99% \$ collected (1 county remaining-Lincoln)
Regional Planners – 97% # collected / 92% \$ collected (1 county remaining-Clark)

2025 Audit, Investment & Finance Committee

According to the WSAC Bylaws, the Audit, Investment, and Finance Committee is set up to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its fiduciary, financial, investment, and compliance oversight responsibilities defined in the committee's charter. The committee includes the current WSAC Vice-Presidents, Mark Ozias and Gunner Fulmer.

The Audit, Investment, and Finance Committee's 2025 activity includes reviewing the 2024 Audit. The auditors have scheduled the onsite work to be completed between June 2nd and 9th. The audit report should be available for the September Board meeting.

Investment Funds

We opened 16 new CDs during the first quarter of 2025, ranging from 6-month to 9-month terms and one for 2 years. There is currently a total of \$3.2 million in CDs, with anticipated interest earnings of almost \$75,000 in 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER SERVICES

County Connection

In lieu of a bi-monthly Legislative Bulletin email, WSAC launched the [County Connection podcast](#). While initially we planned to have 2-4 episodes per month, during the 105-day session, we produced nearly 40 episodes, averaging almost three episodes each week! The reception to the new format was initially hesitant; however, many members have relayed their appreciation and support for it as they have begun listening. To date, we have over 1,400 downloads. Hosted by our very own Paul Jewell, we have had every policy team member and contract lobbyist recorded multiple times. We also began contacting other associations and agencies to expand our guest list. So far, we've recorded with Candice Bock (AWC), Eric Ffitch (WPPA), Commissioner Menser (Thurston County), Commissioner Eisenhower (Jefferson County), Commissioner Ozias (Clallam County), and Jane Wall (CRAB).



Association Management System-The WACounties HUB



We have an App for that! The *WACounties Hub* is now available as an app! The WA Counties Hub app is available on both Android and iOS. Get all the news, events, and calendar information right on your phone.

Thank you to all who have joined The Hub or downloaded the app!

To learn more about the system, visit: [About Your Association Management System – Washington State Association of Counties \(wsac.org\)](#)

Ready to join? Click here: <https://members.wsac.org/>

National Counties Government Month

WSAC celebrated National County Government Month during April by sending out new SWAG boxes to counties with some fun themed items to show our appreciation and thanks for all the work you do. This year's theme is Voices of Impact, which aims to embody the power of clear, strategic communication to drive meaningful change. We added a new Get-to-Know series focusing on our President and our affiliates' presidents. We also launched a new recognition program, Projects of Impact, to spotlight outstanding county projects that make a real difference in their communities. If you are interested in learning more about the program, go to: <https://wsac.org/projects-of-impact/>

Meetings & Events

WSAC continues to provide conference planning support to several affiliate organizations.

Below you will find the current list of events WSAC staff will support in 2025:

April 9-11 – WCAA Annual Administrator's Conference, Chelan County (Icicle Village Resort)

May 13-15 – WSALPHO Public Health Retreat, Walla Walla County (Marcus Whitman)

May 8 – Regular WSAC Board Meeting, King County (SeaTac Radisson)

June 9-12 – WSACE Annual Conference, Snohomish County (Hotel Indigo)

June 10-12 – WSALPHO Annual Conference, Semiahmoo (Whatcom County)

June 16-17 – WACSWM Annual Meeting, Kittitas County (Hotel Windrow)

September 18 – Regular WSAC Board Meeting, Kittitas County

October 7-9 –LBOH Training, Kittitas County
November 18 – Regular WSAC Board Meeting, Spokane County (Davenport Grand)
November 18-20 – County Leaders Conference, Spokane County (Davenport Grand)

Business Partners–WSAC Solutions Center

The Business Partners program is being rebranded and expanded! The Solutions Center is now the umbrella to showcase our partnership programs. More information about the program will be launched soon. This is an exciting expansion of our non-dues revenue strategy, helping connect counties to valuable resources and solutions to create efficiencies and savings.



County Development Institute of Washington

With a large class of NEOs, we hope that this program's utilization will increase significantly in 2025. We will start considering adding new content and evaluating which training needs to be updated.



County Development
Institute of Washington

Go to [On-Demand Trainings - County Development Institute of Washington \(cdiwa.org\)](https://cdiwa.org)

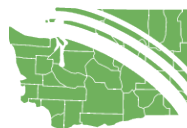
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May 8, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Derek Young, WSAC Interim Executive Director

PREPARED BY: Paul Jewell, Government Relations Director

SUBJECT: Policy & Legislative Report

The 2025 legislative session adjourned on April 27, 2025. This was the first year of the biennium or two-year legislative cycle. It was a “long” session, lasting 105 days. The session was dominated by discussions of a significant multi-cycle operating budget shortfall estimated as high as \$16 billion. At the same time, the state was adjusting to a new administration under recently elected Governor Ferguson and several new statewide elected officials. The legislature's makeup also changed from previous sessions, with the Democratic Party holding a near supermajority of the seats in both legislative chambers.

It was also an emotional session with legislators mourning the passing of retired Secretary of State Ralph Munro and former Speaker Frank Chopp. Near the end of the session, Senator Bill Ramos, husband of King County Councilmember Sarah Perry, also passed away suddenly and unexpectedly.

Despite all the challenges facing the legislature, the session ended on time. The budget passed with billions in cuts and approximately \$4.4 billion in new revenue. All state-shared revenues were maintained, and public defense funding was increased by \$8.3 million annually. Many of the budget cuts implemented by the legislature will impact counties, but not as severely as we feared. At the same time, new funding was also provided for county general expenses and law enforcement/public safety. Other notable budget items included \$15 million for crisis relief (23-hour) facilities and new revenue for county roads.

A surprising focus of this year's session included public safety. While public safety, law enforcement, and the justice system have been frequent topics in recent years, the emphasis has been chiefly on addressing issues of police brutality, limiting police pursuits to reduce risks to bystanders, and reducing penalties for certain crimes to save costs and address social justice concerns. However, the emphasis during this session was much more on increasing law enforcement in communities.

Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) members traveled to Olympia every two weeks throughout the 105-day term. All LSC meetings were conducted in person with an online virtual option. LSC members received weekly briefings on WSAC's legislative priorities and the various policy bills each of our team members was following and working on. The members were asked to take positions on several bills not directly addressed in our Statement of Policy and Core Principles. Members also spent two organized days on the hill advocating directly for WSAC priorities with legislators and legislative leadership.

The staff has prepared an *End-of-Session Report* that provides an overview of the outcomes associated with WSAC's legislative priorities and important bills and budget items for which the policy team provided advocacy. That report is attached to this memo and is available on WSAC's website.

Policy team members have shifted focus to interim activities. Outside the session, policy staff remain engaged in various efforts to continue advocating for member interests and providing opportunities for member engagement and education throughout the year. During the interim, staff will work directly with LSC members to update our Statement of Policy and Core Principles document.

Paul Jewell, Government Relations Director – General Government and Timber

LSC Interim Project

- Update of WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles
- Work with LSC Co-Chairs to plan the Fall LSC meeting
- Work with policy staff to plan two regional meetings for LSC and other members to learn about issues in other state regions and network with colleagues
- Refine WSAC's remaining 2025-27 LSC Legislative Priorities to prepare for the 2026 session

Policy Team

- Work with policy team members to implement and oversee, where appropriate, their individual interim work and development plans
- Spend time getting to know the Governor's Policy team

Podcasts

- Continue recording "The County Connection" podcast with an interim series of interest to members

Clean Energy Property Tax Impacts Task Force

- Continue working closely with the CEPTI task force members and Travis Dutton to refine the proposals originally introduced in HB 1960 during the 2025 legislative session to prepare for a new legislative proposal for the 2026 session

Statewide Riparian Roundtable

- Continue representing counties, alongside Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen, on the statewide riparian roundtable. This group is focused on developing recommendations and an implementation strategy for a statewide riparian restoration strategy.

Net Ecological Gain

- Continue representing WSAC on the Net Ecological Gain core team process managed by the WDFW

WSACRPD – Planner's Affiliate

- Attend the WSACRPD spring meeting in Ellensburg in May
- Continue to assist Curtis with transitioning the facilitation of this group

WACSWM – Solid Waste Manager's Affiliate

- Attend the WACSWM spring meeting in June in Ellensburg
- Continue to support Travis in his facilitation of WACSWM

Columbia River Counties Caucus

- Work closely with Caucus Chair Jo Gilchrist (Lincoln County Commissioner) and White Bluffs Consulting to plan and execute the 2nd and 3rd quarter caucus meetings

Timber Counties Caucus

- Continue supervising Court Stanley and Mark Meleason and overseeing WSAC's involvement in the Adaptive Management Process
- Provide support for WSAC's representatives on the Forest Practices Board and the Board of Natural Resources
- Assist DNR as necessary in implementing the encumbered lands program funding
- Work closely with Caucus Chair Sharon Trask (Mason County Commissioner) to plan and execute the 2nd and 3rd quarter caucus meetings

Statewide Water Resources Advisory Committee

- Continue to represent counties on the statewide water resources advisory committee

Growth Management Act

- Continue representing counties on the Collaborative Roadmap Phase IV task force, seeking

Jaime Bodden, WSALPHO Managing Director – Public Health

Organizational Updates

- In April, WSALPHO welcomed its first cohort to the association's learning management system. This space will include topic forums, communities of practice, training resources, and a resource library.
- WSALPHO Exec Team elections will be held in May as the membership elects our incoming Vice President. At the June WSALPHO Summer Meeting, our new team will become official, with Carla Prock from Benton-Franklin becoming President, Corrin McMichael from Whitman becoming president-elect, and Cindan Gizzi from Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department becoming past president.
- The WSALPHO Executive Team and Board have started updating the association's strategic plan. This plan will focus on the association's next three years and cover three practice areas: strengthening WSALPHO, supporting the local workforce, and protecting and defending public health authority.
- The septage capacity study was finalized in April. WSALPHO has contracted with SCJ Alliance to implement the study. The Department of Ecology anticipates publishing the date in June 2025.
- Agenda planning for the June WSALPHO Summer Meeting is taking shape. About 150 people will attend the Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, Washington. General sessions include a policy panel, a keynote address by the new Secretary of Health, and resiliency training. A breakout session will feature several local health agencies, WSALPHO standing committees, and networking.
- In July, WSALPHO staff will attend the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Conference and present two poster sessions on workforce development and the FPHS concurrence process
- Staff continue to hold monthly WSALPHO Board meetings and help facilitate and plan monthly meetings for the six WSALPHO standing committees: environmental public health, communicable disease, community health, executive leadership, health officers, assessment, and the emergency preparedness ad-hoc group
- Staff continue working with the State DOH Regional Office team to identify and develop outreach, education, and coordination efforts for new public health staff, emerging public health issues (recent work has included workforce development and federal policy), statewide communications, and connecting to state technical assistance

Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS):

- WSALPHO continues to meet monthly with the governmental public health system on implementation, policy development, and funding strategies, taking a leadership role in meeting facilitation and agenda planning
 - Staff participate in weekly project management meetings and state-local-tribal FPHS staff meetings, where they develop agendas for the steering committee meetings
 - Staff continue to provide meeting support for the monthly hybrid steering committee meetings and host the WSALPHO board follow-up meeting
 - The technical workgroups are finalizing their recommendations on definition updates, evaluation, accountability, and health equity frameworks
 - WSALPHO staff continue facilitating monthly meetings for the five SME groups and have co-facilitated the monthly technical workgroup meetings
- WSALPHO policy staff have continued to hone and refine FPHS enterprise processes. These efforts continue to center LHJs in key decisions, ensuring that accountability processes are not overly burdensome, are clear and concise, and LHJs are empowered to use FPHS as flexibly as possible.
- FPHS communications work continues to develop with more templates, investments into the website and dashboards, and legislative talking points
- FPHS Annual Reporting will begin in June for LHJs. This report describes how all agencies have utilized FPHS funding and what we use in working with state policymakers to secure additional FPHS investments. LHJs must complete their annual report to receive the upcoming fiscal year's FPHS distribution.

- Over the next few months, WSALPHO will work with the Steering Committee on concurrence for the next fiscal year. We anticipate no new FPHS funding and the potential for reductions. As part of the concurrence process, the steering committee will decide where and how any reductions will be made.
- WSALPHO staff are also planning a series of FPHS and Legislative visits in the interim, featuring local health and how agencies have been utilizing FPHS funding. There will likely be 6-8 meetings focusing on west/east, large/medium/small, county department/district.

Legislative Session and Policy:

- WSALPHO continues monthly meetings with various partners, including local health jurisdictions, State DOH, Governor's Office, non-profit organizations, and associations
- WSALPHO continues to work with NACCHO's Government Affairs staff to support their federal advocacy efforts around public health funding, particularly focusing on local health department funding
 - In February, WSALPHO staff and Exec Team traveled to DC and participated in NACCHO's Hill Day, meeting with several elected officials
 - WSALPHO has also developed and shared local impacts materials with federal leaders on the various changes to federal policy and funding
- WSALPHO continues to be an ex officio board member of the Washington State Public Health Association

Workforce Development:

- WSALPHO continues to build and strengthen partnerships focused on workforce development. Staff are co-leading a steering committee with the DOH to help coordinate workforce development opportunities for the public health system.
- In mid-May, WSALPHO will host its annual workforce development retreat. This meeting will continue building resiliency and a strong culture within agencies, focusing on results-based accountability. We expect 70 LHJ staff to attend.

Axel Swanson, WSACE Managing Director – Public Works, Transportation, & Broadband

Following a lengthy session, the Washington State Association of County Engineers (WSACE) will begin work on interim activities this month. To help guide the Association's direction on behalf of the membership, the Board and Managing Director will focus on updating our strategic plan and legislative priorities documents. As usual, WSACE will continue participating in work group activity, meet with agencies regarding regulatory challenges, and finalize plans for the 2025 Annual Meeting and Professional Development Conference.

The Annual Conference will take place June 9- 12 in Snohomish County. We are working with Communications & Member Services (CMS) staff to deliver a great agenda packed with educational content and enjoyable opportunities for members to network with colleagues around the state.

The Managing Director will continue to staff the WSAC Broadband Advisory Committee throughout the interim, helping to provide timely access to information, agency partners, and coordination for the statewide planning effort.

Specifically, WSACE will be focused on the following projects and activities over the interim:

WSACE Board/Managing Director Activities

- The WSACE Board will continue meeting monthly to work on Association priorities. Board members provide the Managing Director with critical insight into technical legislation, regulatory changes, and membership engagement. Upcoming topics will include updating legislative priorities and the Strategic Plan, conference planning, annual awards and elections, and the budget
- The Spring East and West side WSACE meetings are scheduled for this month, and we look forward to catching up with our colleagues ahead of the Annual Conference and Business Meeting in June.
- The Managing Director, Board members, and WSAC CMS staff are working together to finalize conference planning for the WSACE Annual Meeting and Professional Development Conference this Summer in Snohomish County
- The Board and Managing Director continue to partner with the County Road Administration Board (CRAB). WSACE Board members help with the Annual Awards and continue to attend CRAB Board

meetings.

- The Managing Director continues to work on research, outreach, and contract preparation for WSACE studies and projects. These projects include the inventory of county-owned fish passage barriers, updating the calculation regarding the county's portion of the Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax, creating specific guidance and training for county Public Works Departments developing community engagement plans to mitigate project and program harms and maximize community benefits, and identifying best practices within public works for the recruitment and retention of employees.
- WSACE staff will continue to field and respond to requests for information from members in the interim

Agency Outreach & Presentations

- In the interim, requests for presentations will increase considerably, starting last month with updates to FMSIB, a presentation at APWA, and this month at the CRAB meeting
- Over the interim, the Managing Director and/or WSACE members will continue participating in many boards, committees, and work groups related to county transportation and infrastructure. Examples include CRAB, TIB, FMSIB, Fish Barrier Removal Board, Pedestrian and Bicycle Program (PBP), Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS), and the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC).

Regulatory Issues

- WSACE continuously tracks and provides feedback regarding several regulatory issues and processes. These include the Department of Fish and Wildlife's current fish passage rulemaking, the Department of Ecology's work to reduce the threat of 6PPD-q to the environment, and changes at the federal level.

Legislative Affairs/ Interim Workgroups & Studies

- The Managing Director is currently scheduling interim meetings with legislators and tracking committee work that is important to advance our adopted legislative priorities
- We will participate in a new permit streamlining set to start soon
- WSACE will also continue working with WSDOT Local Programs to continue the development of the Federal Fund Exchange Pilot Program.
- The WSACE Managing Director will attend WSAC Legislative Steering Committee meetings and help identify and facilitate needed updates to WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles and legislative priorities
- We will also work over the interim to establish and implement new training for WSAC members on county public works, transportation, and infrastructure

Brad Banks, Contract Lobbyist – Human Services, Law & Justice

After a hectic, long session for public safety, behavioral health, criminal justice, and other human services issues, my focus will transition toward interim work and the 2026 supplemental legislative session. The first order of business involves unpacking the new biennial operating budget, which contains myriad changes to funding levels for various ongoing programs and, in fact, some new funding, particularly in public safety. Moreover, several key bills passed the legislature during this session, which will require interim work and follow-up.

Public Safety and Law & Justice

- The legislature passed HB 2015, which includes \$100 million in grants to counties and cities for law enforcement and criminal justice purposes. There will no doubt need to be staff work to support counties interested in accessing these grant funds and coordinating with the Criminal Justice Training Commission to make the grant application process as seamless as possible for counties. Additionally, assisting counties in understanding the intent of this funding and the potential acceptable uses of the grant funding. HB 2015 also created an additional 1/10th sales tax option for counties and cities. The bill tasks WSAC and AWC with coordinating with local governments that pass the tax and producing an annual report to the legislature on how funds levied by this tax option are being spent.
- HB 1359 establishes a task force to review and make recommended changes to laws related to criminal insanity and competency to stand trial. The bill directs WSAC to convene and staff the task force, comprising various criminal justice stakeholders. The work includes:
 - conducting a comprehensive review of existing law to identify barriers to administration, fairness, efficiency, and public safety;

- considering terminology and language changes to improve clarity, reduce stigma, and improve coherence between legal and medical terminology; and
- making recommendations to remove barriers to diversion programs, promote effective treatment, and increase services that would facilitate safe hospital discharges.

The task force must report its findings to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees by December 1, 2026.

- The Jail Modernization Task Force is set to conclude its work in July, so engaging on the recommendations and what coordination will be needed to advance them in the next session will be necessary

Behavioral Health & Human Services

- With the passage of HB 1813, WSAC's priority legislation to address Medicaid reprocurement and sustainable crisis system funding, work must be done to ensure HCA follows through on the bill's requirements. Additionally, WSAC will need to engage with the Governor's office, HCA, and legislators about longer-term system change, including a carveout for Medicaid crisis services
- While some one-time funding was provided in the budget to help three crisis relief centers (23-hour facilities) become operational, a longer-term funding solution will be necessary to sustain their operation and expansion
- Participate in a Diversion/Deflection Conference along with the BHASOs in the Tri-Cities in May.
- Engage in follow-up work related to the Trueblood legislation from this session. While the bill did not pass, it will likely return next session, so interim work to ensure that county interests are represented will be important
- Meet with the BHASOs every month
- Coordinate and support ACHS in the areas of veterans services and intellectual/developmental disabilities

Finally, beyond the items enumerated above, interim work will include

- Coordinating with WSAC staff and LSC to update the WSAC policy manual by the end of August
- Partner with Travis Dutton and provide additional opportunities for him to learn and engage in public safety and behavioral health issues
- Assist Travis with supporting the SWISS group's work, especially in the relevant issue areas
- Attending relevant issue area meetings and conferences
- Getting to know the new staff in the Governor's office and any new state agency leaders relevant to my issue portfolio
- Supporting and preparing for the fall County Leaders Conference
- Representing WSAC and supporting member representatives on various statewide workgroups and committees

Kelsey Hulse, Contract Lobbyist – Land Use, Natural Resources

Planning/GMA

- Attend the WSACRPD conference 5/27-5/29/25 in Ellensburg
- Work with WSAC staff to develop a data collection strategy to help inform future legislative efforts and report to legislators and agency staff on the impacts of policy choices made during previous legislative sessions
- Work with WSAC staff and legislators to refine the housing priority proposals for the 2026 legislative session.
- Build relationships with key personnel at the Department of Commerce

Legislative Steering Committee

- Attend all LSC meetings.
- Work with WSAC staff and LSC members to develop updates to WSAC Statement of Policy and Core Principles
- Monitor and engage in issue discussions with legislators and state agencies as necessary

Salmon Recovery Issues

- Monitor the ongoing riparian restoration roundtable process
- Monitor and engage as necessary on salmon recovery issues that impact counties

General

- Attend and participate in all WSAC policy team meetings
- Assist in planning and preparing for the annual County Leaders Conference
- Other responsibilities as assigned

Curtis Steinhauer, Policy Coordinator – Housing, Building & Permitting

Housing, Building, and Permitting Policy:

- Represent WSAC and support member representatives on various statewide workgroups and committees, including the AMI Alternatives workgroup, Youth Homelessness Prevention Workgroup, Standard Plan Set Workgroup, and the Governor's Affordable Housing Advisory Board
- Attend and participate in ACHS Homelessness and Affordable Housing subcommittee meetings
- Support the WSAC policy team in the development of housing-related legislative priorities
- Manage a grant program to fund energy audits and benchmarking for county-owned tier 1 and tier 2 buildings
- Work with members and other WSAC staff to update relevant portions of WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles

County Administrators Affiliate (WCAA)

- Facilitate and develop an agenda for monthly WCAA calls
- Develop programming and assist WCAA members in planning for the 2026 annual affiliate conference
- Develop County Leader's content specific to the needs of WCAA members

County Planning Director's Affiliate (WSACRPD)

- Develop programming and assist WSACRPD members in planning for 2025 and 2026 in-person affiliate meetings
- Work with the WSACRPD executive team to draft and implement a strategic plan to guide the group's activities through 2027.
- Develop County Leader's content specific to the needs of WSACRPD members

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

- Plan and facilitate quarterly meetings for the ARPA administrators' group
- Attend U.S. Department of Treasury and NACo trainings and webinars related to ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Support Derek in federal advocacy activities related to ARPA funds.
- Provide one-on-one technical assistance to members when needed

Local Government Fiscal Notes

- Plan and facilitate research and stakeholder engagement activities between the LGFN team at Commerce and County stakeholders
- Collect and analyze data related to bills expected to be reintroduced in the upcoming session

Other Policy Duties

- Support Derek and Brad Banks in interim work to develop legislative priorities around the issue of Public Defense
- Monitor development in various policy areas, including public defense, local government revenue, tax policy, etc.
- Support other policy staff with data analysis and research as needed

Travis Dutton, Policy Coordinator – Environment, Energy, Wildland Fire, and Behavioral Health

Solid Waste Management

Through the remainder of 2025, Travis will be:

- Working with WACSWM to implement legislation that has passed over recent sessions, including:

- HB 1154 – Solid Waste Handling Facility Enforcement (2025)
- SB 5284 – Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Products (2025)
- Organics Management (multiple bills between 2022-2025)
- Coordinating and facilitating a 2-day WACSWM meeting in Ellensburg in June and Spokane during the November County Leaders Conference
- Engaging in ongoing communication and working with partner organizations
- Assisting WACSWM with refining their 2025-26 legislative agenda. This includes HB 2018, which was introduced during the 2025 session and would increase revenue to fund local solid waste programs.

SWISS

- Continuing to implement the SWISS Strategic Plan
- Review and update the SWISS Strategic Plan
- Work with subcommittee chairs to develop and implement 2025 schedules and plans for each subcommittee: Transportation, Behavioral Health, and Broadband
- Continue to support and help facilitate subcommittee meetings and regular SWISS quarterly meetings

Energy/Climate Change

- HB 1960, directly resulting from the Clean Energy Property Tax Impacts task force recommendations, was introduced during the 2025 session, but did not make it out of the house of origin. Interim work will include refining the recommendations and preparing legislation for the 2026 session.
- During 2025, Travis will also be:
 - Monitoring and participating in Commerce's process to study and develop recommendations for the siting of clean energy projects in rural communities as required by HB 1216 (2023)
 - Participating in state work groups to develop an Environmental Justice Toolkit for the siting of hydrogen energy facilities
 - Monitoring the WSU Pumped Storage Hydro siting project and recommendations

Behavioral Healthcare, Criminal Justice, and Veterans' Services

- Travis will support WSAC's contract lobbyist to complete projects in these areas and prepare for increased support during the 2026 legislative session

Forest Health & Wildfire

- Travis will continue representing counties on the Forest Health Advisory Committee

END OF REPORT